COMMUNITY HOUSING STUDY

ROSS RIVER HOUSING REPORT

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YUKON HOUSING CORPORATION

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ROSS RIVER

COMMUNITY HOUSING REPORT

A Study on Housing Quality

A Research Project by:

Yukon Housing Corporation

Report Date: January 2001

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ROSS RIVER COMMUNITY HOUSING REPORT

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

GENERAL INFORMATION

The Yukon Housing Corporation, in conjunction with the Northern Research Institute, undertook a housing study in Ross River in October 1999. The purpose of the study was to look at the quality of housing in the community. A total of 65, randomly selected, households were interviewed.

This summary provides key highlights of the Ross River housing study. The study looks at dwelling adequacy, dwelling affordability, dwelling suitability, access to home ownership, as well as seniors and elders needs. It also compares Ross River with the Yukon.

DWELLING ADEQUACY – KEY HIGHLIGHTS

The study looks at *dwelling adequacy*, which refers to:

- the energy efficiency of the dwelling;
- the state of repair of the dwelling;
- the presence or absence of basic facilities in the dwelling;
- the need for health and safety considerations in the dwelling including running water, electricity, heat, and smoke alarms; and
- the desire of the occupants to improve the dwelling.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY

Just over 30 percent of Ross River households pay more than $3 per square foot to heat their homes (page 10)[1]. A number of factors come into play when considering energy costs including the type of window pane, the thickness of walls, and the kind of heating system. Energy related repair needs in Ross River are 40 percent versus 14 percent for the Yukon (page 22).

STATE OF REPAIR

Seventy-two percent of all dwellings in Ross River require major repairs compared with 33 percent in the Yukon (page 25). Just over 53 percent of Ross River households require major repairs to wall, foundations, floors, and ceilings (page 27), while 40 percent of dwellings require minor repairs (page 30). Minor repairs include such things as windows, insulation and foundation repairs (page 31). The state of household repair needed in Ross River is higher than Yukon wide results.

BASIC FACILITIES

Eighty-eight percent of the Ross River dwellings have basic amenities such as hot and cold water, toilet, sink, bath and electricity while 12 percent lack some basic facilities (page 33). The Yukon wide results show 4 percent of dwellings lacking basic facilities.

HEALTH AND SAFETY DEFICIENCIES

Forty-five percent of Ross River dwellings have health and safety deficiencies (page 35). These deficiencies may range from not having a kitchen exhaust system to not having adequate sewage disposal. For example, 23 percent of dwellings do not have working smoke alarms (page 36).

[1] The page numbers identified throughout this summary refer to the data in the Ross River Community Housing Report.

DESIRED IMPROVEMENTS

Respondents stated they would like to make improvements including remodeling a kitchen to major structural repairs. Just over 12 percent of respondents would like to do major repairs to the dwelling's structure. Almost 8 percent of respondents would like to replace plumbing, and electrical wiring in addition to other non-specified major repairs (page 42).

DWELLING AFFORDABILITY - KEY HIGHLIGHTS

The study looks at *dwelling affordability*, which refers to:

- whether the occupants pay 30 percent of their gross income for shelter costs.

AFFORDABILITY PROBLEM

Nine percent of Ross River respondents do not have an affordability problem while 9 percent have a potential problem (page 44). Ross River and Yukon results are different. The measurement of housing affordability in Ross River was difficult to determine as insufficient data was provided by 82 percent of the respondents.

DWELLING SUITABILITY – KEY HIGHLIGHTS

The study looks at *dwelling suitability*, which refers to:

- the number of bedrooms in the dwelling; and
- the ease of access for the disabled and elderly.

CROWDING

Crowding is a significant issue in Ross River. Twelve percent of Ross River households do not have enough bedrooms (page 46). This compares with 6 percent for the Yukon.

ACCESSIBILITY FOR DISABLED AND ELDERLY

About 14 percent of Ross River households have one disabled person (page 49). These households are generally equipped with accessibility features such as raised counters. However, 33.3 percent of Ross River households require ramps, 22.2 percent require wheelchair access, 33.3 percent require handrails and grab bars, and, lastly, 11.1 percent need lever handles (page 51).

ACCESS TO HOME OWNERSHIP – KEY HIGHLIGHTS

The study looks at *access to home ownership* in terms of:

- reasons for renting.

RENTING

There are many reasons why people choose to rent rather than buy their own homes. In the study, renters' responses range from "down payment" to "not wanting to upkeep a home." Excluding the "Other" category, the most significant reason given, at 28 percent, for not purchasing a home in Ross River is that renters' have not option to purchase a home (page 53). Another 17 percent say the need for a down payment prevents them from purchasing *a* home, and an additional 17 percent say they will not purchase a home due to their short stay in the community.

SENIORS AND ELDERS NEEDS - KEY HIGHLIGHTS

The study looks at the *needs of seniors and elders* in terms of:

- dwelling suitability.

DWELLING SUITABILITY

Senior households make up 12 percent of Ross River households (page 55). All senior households in Ross River said all basic facilities were available in their homes (page 57).

COMMUNITY HOUSING STUDIES METHODOLOGY

BACKGROUND

In 1986, national census data was released that indicated the need for improved housing quality in Yukon. That data suggested that housing quality in the territory was among the lowest in Canada. Since then, the Yukon Housing Corporation has strengthened existing programs and created new programs to assist Yukoners to improve the quality of their housing.

The Yukon Housing Corporation wishes to continue its effort to help Yukoners improve their housing. In order to do that, the Yukon Housing Corporation requires good quality information to determine if its programs are helping to improve housing in the Yukon, and to possibly refocus the Yukon Housing Corporation's policies, programs and services to meet the needs identified by Yukoners.

STUDY DESIGN

In an effort to get up-to-date information on housing conditions and the housing needs of Yukoners, the Yukon Housing Corporation designed and managed a housing data collection project that consisted of a series of community housing surveys completed throughout the Yukon. These surveys were carefully designed to obtain answers to the Yukon Housing Corporation's critical policy questions. These policy questions can be grouped into three general standards of housing quality. These standards are also used to assess housing quality throughout Canada. They are:

- *Dwelling Adequacy* (physical condition): refers to the presence or absence of basic health and safety features in the home, for example, running water, electricity, heat, smoke alarms are basic health and safety features.
- *Dwelling Affordability* (dwelling costs with respect to household income): refers to a measure of the ability of the occupants to pay for their housing. This includes an analysis of the affordability of home ownership as compared to home renting.
- *Dwelling Suitability* (factors such as crowding and accessibility): refers to the appropriateness of the dwelling for the current occupants. For example, is the home accessible for its occupants, or are there enough bedrooms. This section included a special analysis of seniors' and elders' needs.

Each of these three housing quality standards contains sub-themes. For example, the first one, *Dwelling Adequacy,* is comprised of the following:

- Energy Efficiency,
- State of Repair,
- Presence or Absence of Basic Facilities,
- Health and Safety Items, and

- Desirable Improvements.

The information provided in the responses to the community housing surveys allows the Yukon Housing Corporation to determine the quality of dwellings in each community.

This housing quality indicator report provides a summary of the responses to the questions in the community housing survey. It also provides information on a Yukon wide basis to allow the reader to compare housing conditions in your community with those in the Yukon in general.

PROCESS

The Yukon Housing Corporation contracted with the Northern Research Institute to complete the door-to-door surveying. The Northern Research Institute recruited and trained the surveyors, and administered the survey.

Community Housing Surveys were completed for the communities of Beaver Creek, Burwash Landing, Carcross, Carmacks, Dawson City, Destruction Bay, Haines Junction, Marsh Lake, Mayo, Ross River, Teslin, Watson Lake, and Whitehorse.

In each of the 13 communities surveyed, the local government, and the relevant First Nation government were informed of, and included in the process. Their assistance was critical to our success in obtaining excellent quality housing data in these studies. In return, Yukon Housing Corporation committed to providing this report on housing quality to these communities.

The Northern Research Institute hired interviewers from each community with the exception of one community where no local people applied for the positions. In every case, the local government and the relevant First Nation government office were contacted in advance of the survey. In many communities, Yukon Housing Corporation and Northern Research Institute staff met with officials from those offices to review the surveying process in the community and to provide information to those concerned.

SAMPLE DESIGN AND SAMPLE SIZE

The Yukon Housing Corporation and the Northern Research Institute physically mapped all occupied dwellings in each of the communities that were surveyed. From this "population" of dwellings, we randomly sampled a specific number of households to interview. For each community, Yukon Housing Corporation determined the correct number of households to survey in such a way as to make the quality of the data the same in each community. As a result, in each community, the data is statistically accurate within 10 percent, 19 times out of 20. In Ross River, 65 households were surveyed out of an estimated 170 dwellings.

TIME OF DATA COLLECTION

The surveying was done in Ross River in October 1999.

DATA QUALITY

A random sample survey was completed for each community. Of the approximately 11,700 households in the Yukon, 2,138 households were surveyed through this process. In each community, this survey yielded very high quality, statistically valid data. The confidence interval of the data is 95 percent; the margin of error is 10 percent [2].

USEFULNESS OF DATA

The housing data is stored in a database that will allow us to look at the data in a variety of ways in order to assess the housing conditions and needs of many different groups within the Yukon population. By analyzing the data in a variety of ways, the Yukon Housing Corporation will be able to make the best possible program and policy decisions to help Yukoners improve their housing.

The data will also provide communities and First Nations with a useful tool that will help them to make decisions about housing improvement priorities.

Data can be provided in more detailed breakdowns and cross-tabulations. It can also be provided in the form of customized report. For example, an energy report will be prepared.

CONFIDENTIALITY

Yukon Housing Corporation is obliged to protect the identities of individual respondents. In general, no information that is confidential under the provisions of the *Statistics Act* and the *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act* will be divulged.

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[2] When a sample survey is conducted, the results depend on who was selected to be in the survey. A different sample of people might yield different results. The amount of variability in the results obtained from different samples is called the sampling error. We can measure the sampling error by applying statistical formulas. This error can be reported in various ways, one of which is a confidence interval. A confidence interval is a range of likely values. When a sample survey is conducted, we can estimate the proportion of people with some characteristic. Often accompanying the point estimate, a 95 percent confidence interval is given. If you repeated the survey over and over, 95 percent of the time the result would be within the given range, which in this case, is 10 percent.

REPORT FORMAT

This report will consist of a series of pages of charts. Each page will focus on one specific housing topic. The top chart on each page will show the data for that topic from each community, and the bottom chart will show the corresponding Yukon wide data. The data is presented in this way to allow easy comparison of community data with that of the territory as a whole.

In many cases, the charts will show one factor against another factor. Please note, one factor alone is not completely predictive of another factor. In most cases, there are numerous factors that influence the end result.

In the report, a series of charts are presented. For example, energy costs are considered in the context of wall thickness versus energy costs per square foot; window type versus energy costs per square foot; and measures to control energy loss versus energy costs per square foot. These comparisons allow the reader to draw conclusions about the total effect of all of the factors regarding energy costs per square foot.

USE OF INFORMATION

Data is provided for information purposes only. Interpretation and use of data in decision making is the sole responsibility of the user.

1 DWELLING ADEQUACY

The following characteristics of dwellings were used as indicators of the adequacy of the dwelling:

- **energy efficiency,**
- **state of repair,**
- **basic facilities, presence or absence,**
- **health and safety considerations, presence or absence of various features, and**
- **desirable improvements.**

1.1 ENERGY EFFICIENCY

The following 12 sub-themes illustrate various factors related to the energy efficiency of dwellings in Ross River and the Yukon:[3]

⇒ ANNUAL ENERGY COST PER SQUARE FOOT,

⇒ ANNUAL ENERGY COST VERSUS DWELLING SIZE,

⇒ ANNUAL ENERGY COST VERSUS DWELLING TYPE,

⇒ ANNUAL ENERGY COST PER SQUARE FOOT VERSUS AGE OF THE DWELLING,

⇒ ANNUAL ENERGY COST VERSUS DWELLING'S MAIN WINDOW TYPE,

⇒ ANNUAL ENERGY COST VERSUS DWELLING'S MAIN WINDOW PANE TYPE,

⇒ ANNUAL ENERGY COST VERSUS DWELLING'S WALL THICKNESS,

⇒ ANNUAL ENERGY COST VERSUS DWELLING'S MAIN HEATING FUEL,

⇒ ANNUAL ENERGY COST VERSUS DWELLING'S MAIN HEATING SYSTEM,

⇒ ANNUAL ENERGY COST VERSUS HEAT LOSS PREVENTION MEASURES,

⇒ PERCENTAGE OF DWELLINGS WITH AN ENERGY RELATED REPAIR NEED,

⇒ ANNUAL ENERGY COST PER SQUARE FOOT VERSUS ENERGY RELATED REPAIR NEED.

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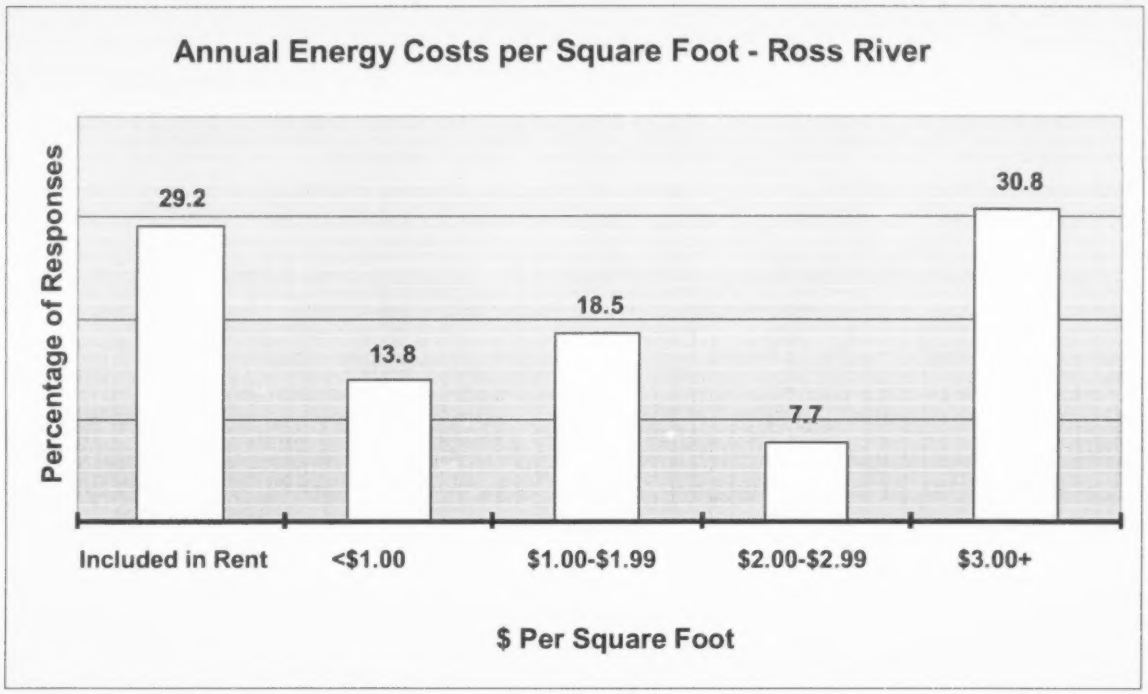
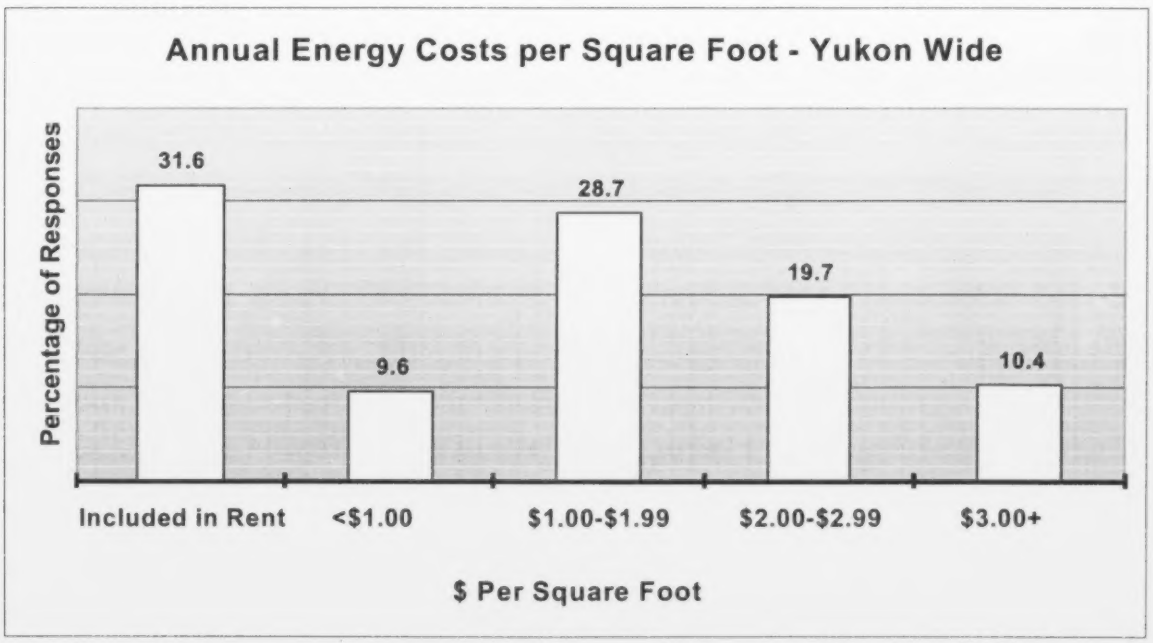
[3] ANNUAL ENERGY COST PER SQUARE FOOT: In calculating the energy cost per square foot, it should be noted that dwelling square footage includes the main floor and the second floor if applicable. It does not include the basement square footage even if the basement is heated. As well, the calculation of the annual energy cost includes the annual cost of heating fuel and the annual cost of electricity.

1.1.1 ANNUAL ENERGY COST PER SQUARE FOOT

These bar charts depict heating costs per square foot that households pay in Ross River and in the Yukon.



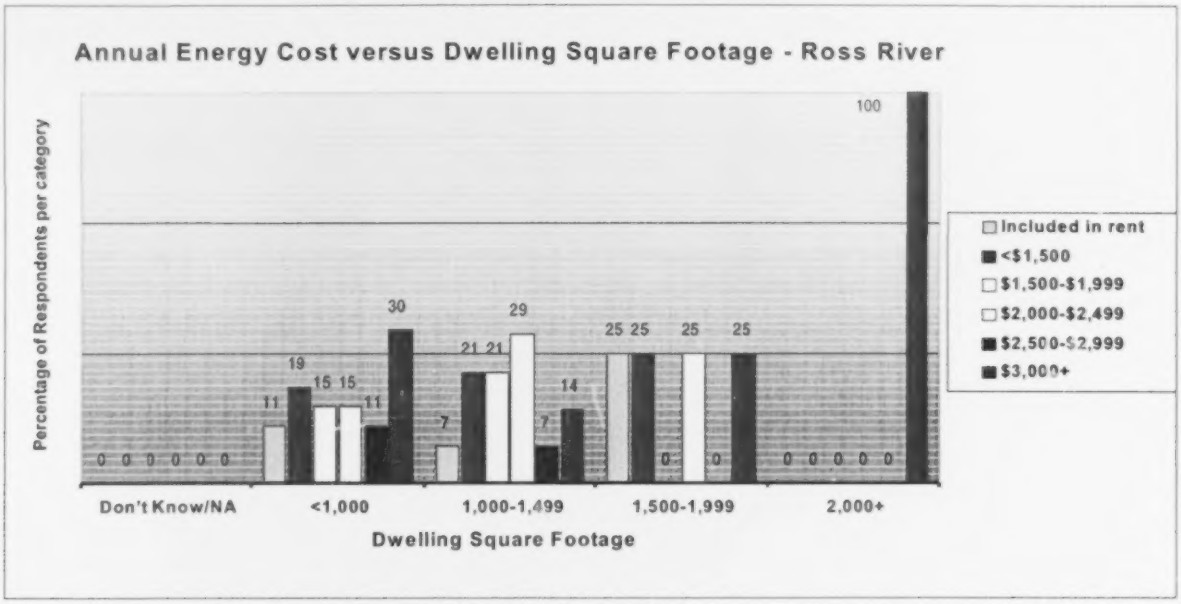


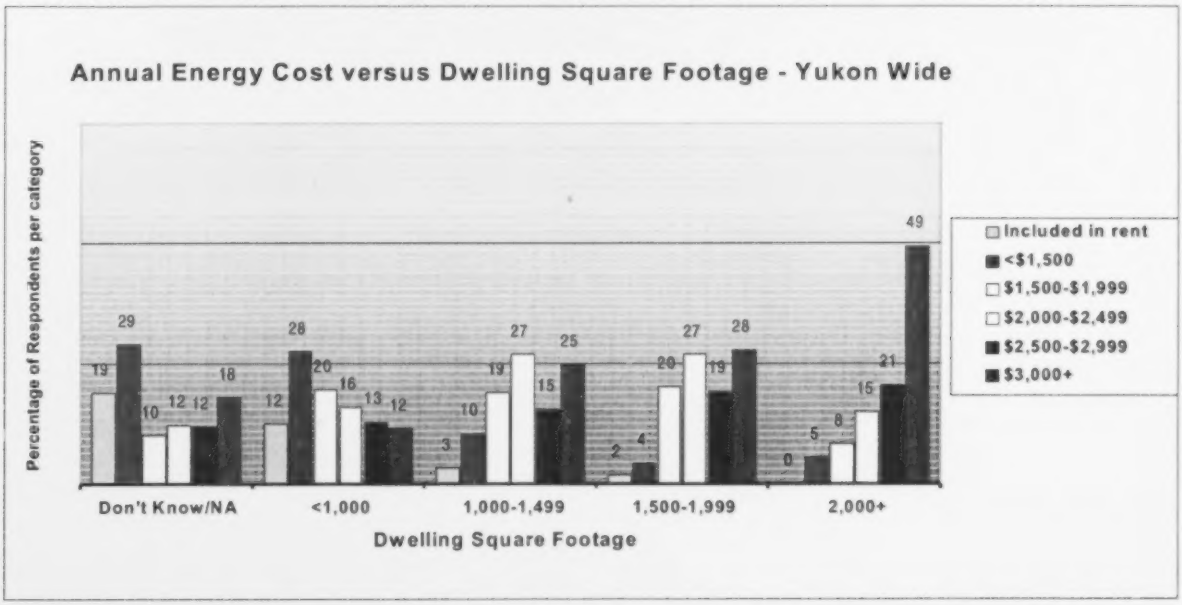
HIGHLIGHTS

- Over 30 percent of Ross River households pay more than $3 per square foot for heating. Only 10.4 percent of all Yukon households pay more than $3 per square foot for heating.

1.1.2 ANNUAL ENERGY COST VERSUS DWELLING SIZE

These bar charts show the relationship between annual energy costs for householders and the square footage of their dwellings.





HIGHLIGHTS

- All of the respondents, whose dwellings are greater than 2000 square feet, pay more than $3 per square foot for heating. This represents one household.
- There is no discernible trend in Ross River in terms of a relationship between square footage and heating costs per square foot.

1.1.2 ANNUAL ENERGY COST VERSUS DWELLING SIZE

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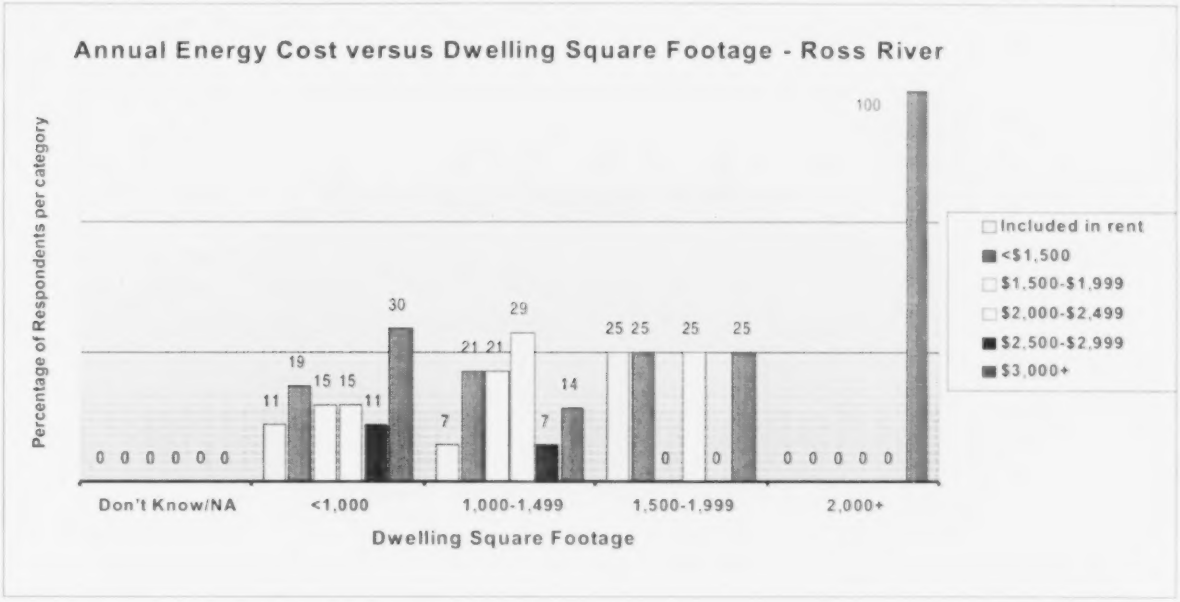

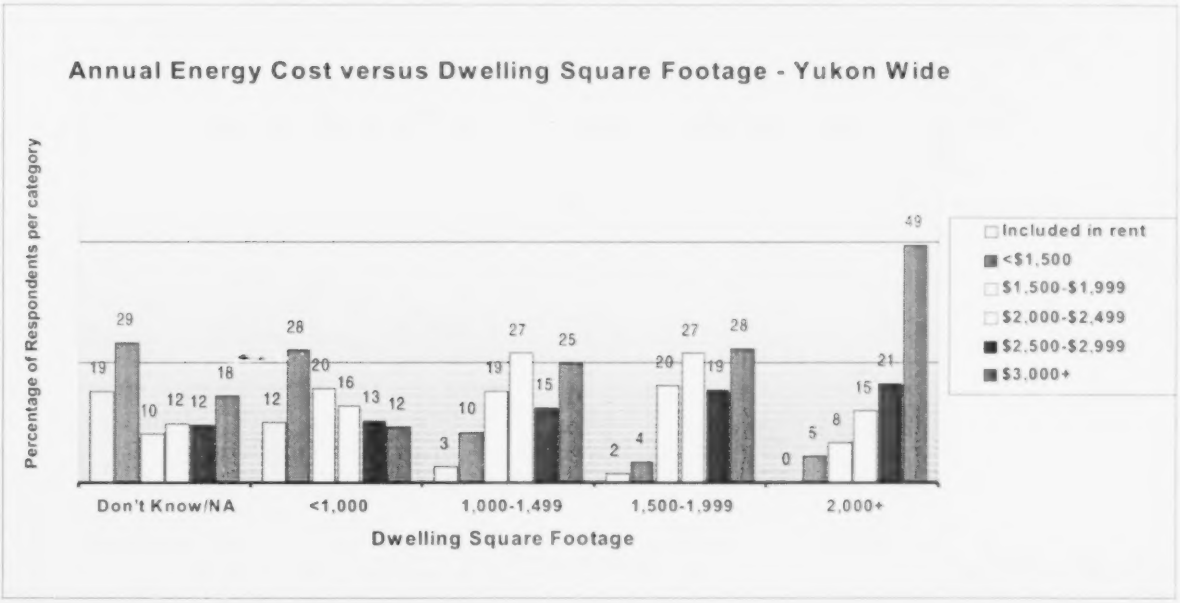

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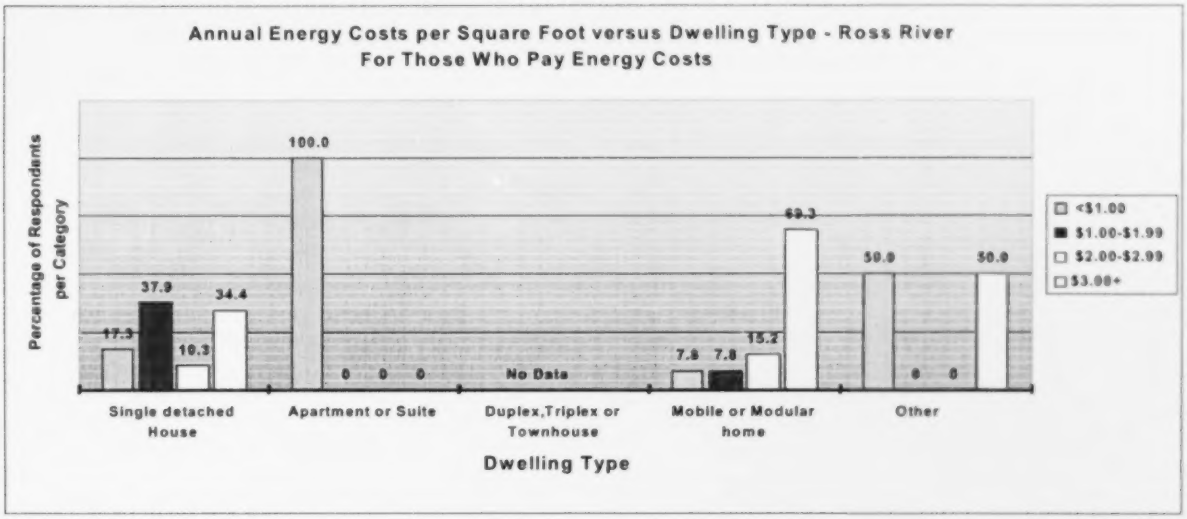
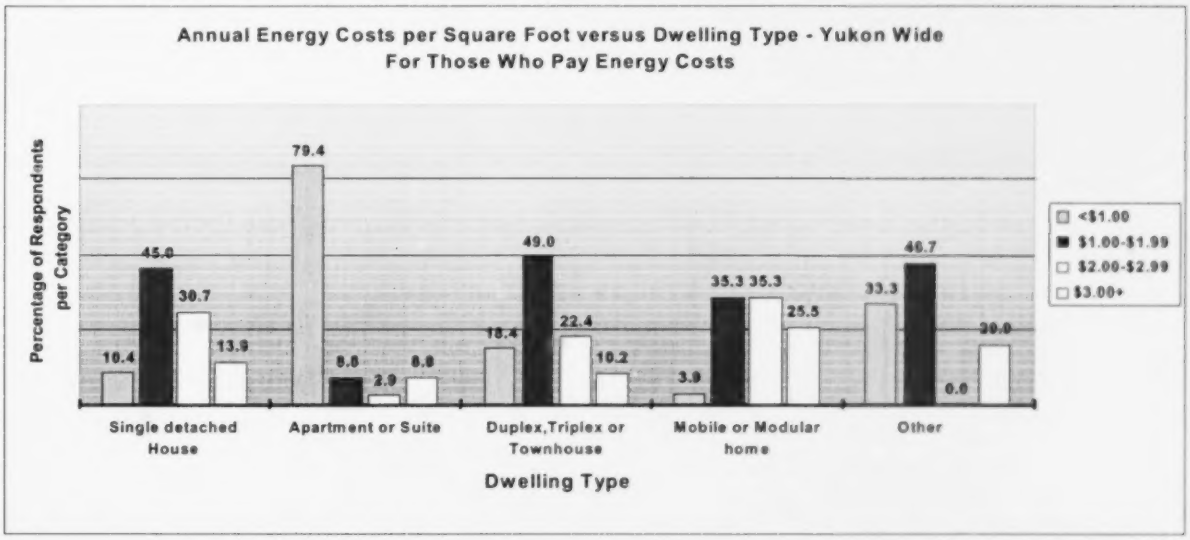
- There is no discernible trend in Ross River in terms of a relationship between square footage and heating costs per square foot.

1.1.3 ANNUAL ENERGY COST VERSUS DWELLING TYPE

These bar charts show the relationship between annual energy costs per square foot for householders and the dwelling type.



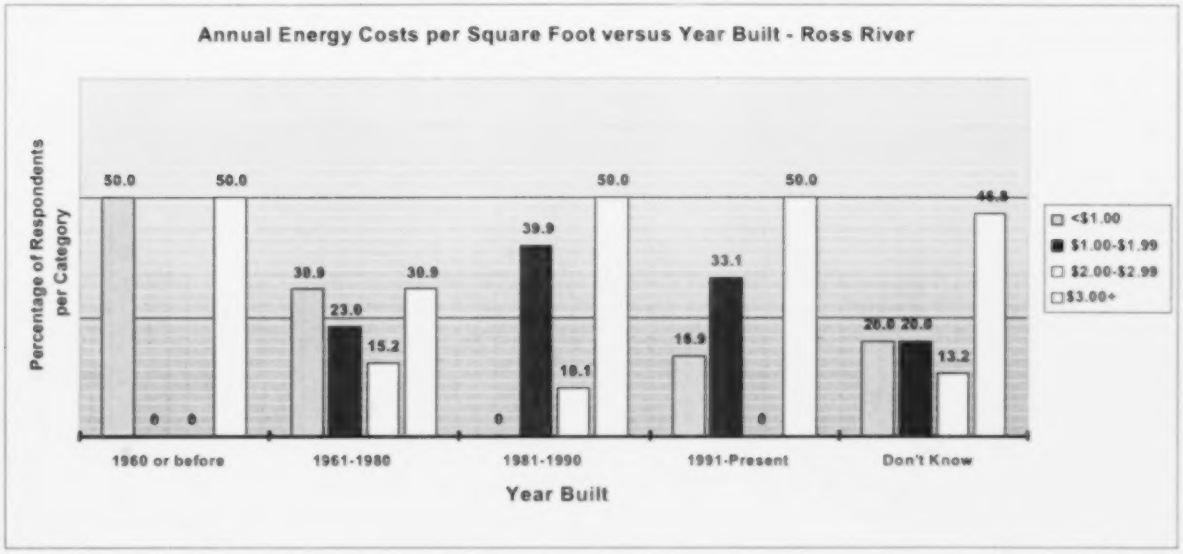


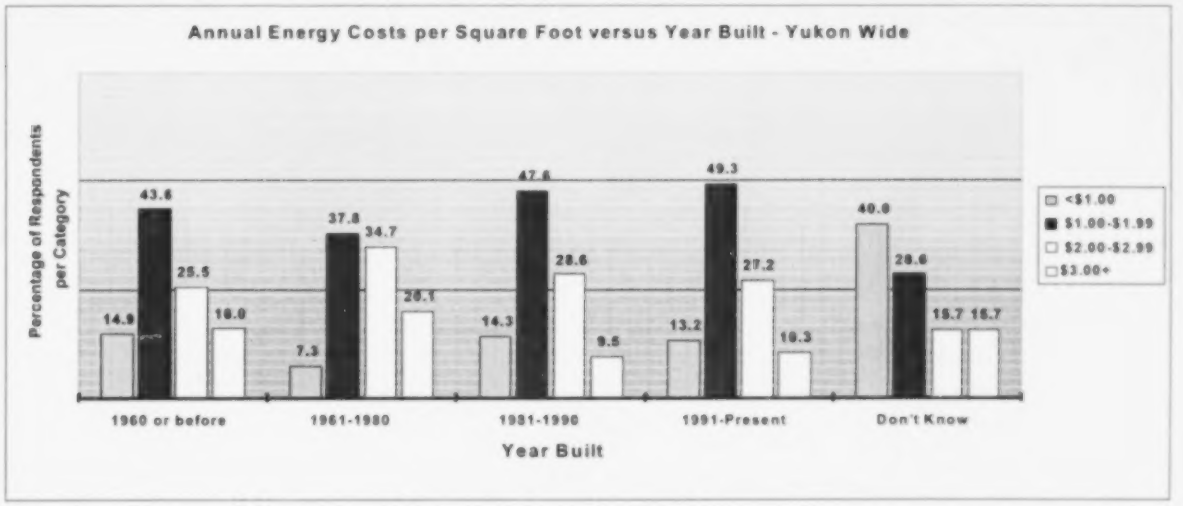
HIGHLIGHTS

- Approximately 70 percent of mobile and modular homes in Ross River had heating costs greater than $3 per square foot. This percentage is greater than for any other type of dwelling.
- 100 percent of apartments or suites have energy costs of less than a $1 per square foot. This represents approximately 3 households.
- Caution is advised in interpreting these results. Percentages are potentially misleading in the case of small populations. Total numbers in each category of dwelling are quite small.
- The "Other" category includes dwellings that do not fit into any other category, for example, a five-plex or a mobile home with additions.

1.1.4 ANNUAL ENERGY COST PER SQUARE FOOT VERSUS AGE OF THE DWELLING

These bar charts show the relationship between annual energy costs per square foot for householders and the age of the dwelling.



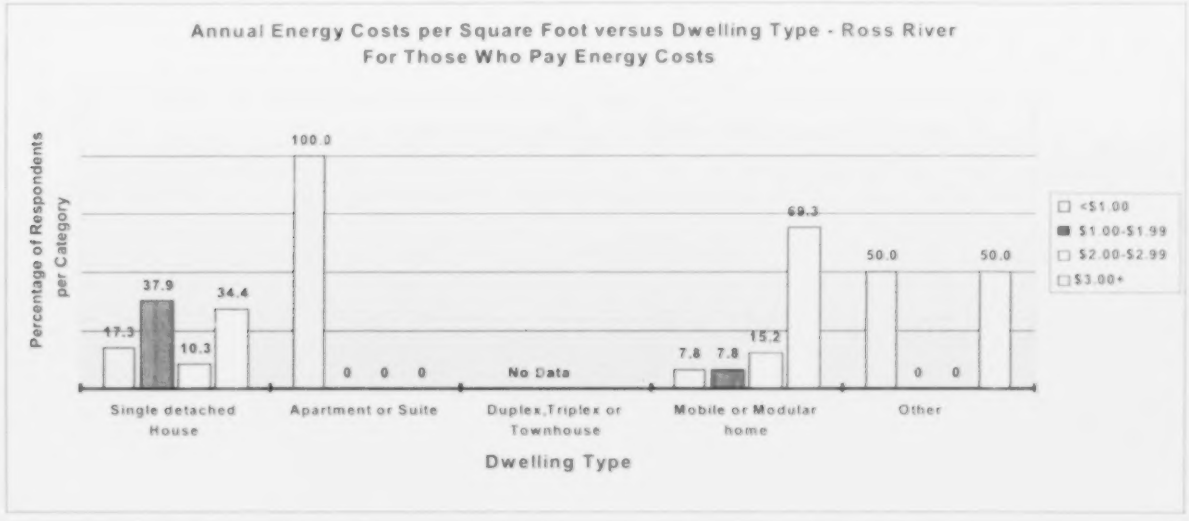


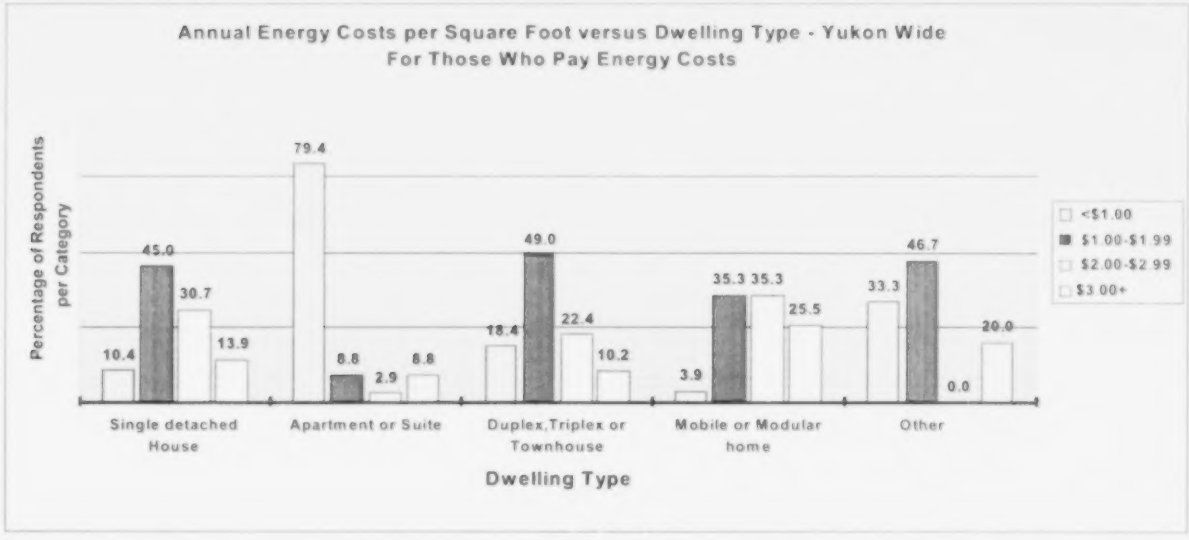
HIGHLIGHTS

- A significant percentage of homes of all ages in Ross River have high heating costs, more than $3 per square foot.
- In Ross River, 50 percent of homes built between 1981 and 1990 and 50 percent of the homes built between 1991 and the present have heating costs greater than $3 per square foot.
- Only about 10 percent of all homes built between these periods in the Yukon as a whole have heating costs this high.
- Caution is advised in interpreting these results. Total numbers of dwellings in each category are quite low.

1.1.3 ANNUAL ENERGY COST VERSUS DWELLING TYPE

These bar charts show the relationship between annual energy costs per square foot for householders and the dwelling type.





HIGHLIGHTS

- Approximately 70 percent of mobile and modular homes in Ross River had heating costs greater than $3 per square foot. This percentage is greater than for any other type of dwelling.
- 100 percent of apartments or suites have energy costs of less than a $1 per square foot. This represents approximately 3 households.
- Caution is advised in interpreting these results. Percentages are potentially misleading in the case of small populations. Total numbers in each category of dwelling are quite small.
- The "Other" category includes dwellings that do not fit into any other category, for example, a five-plex or a mobile home with additions.

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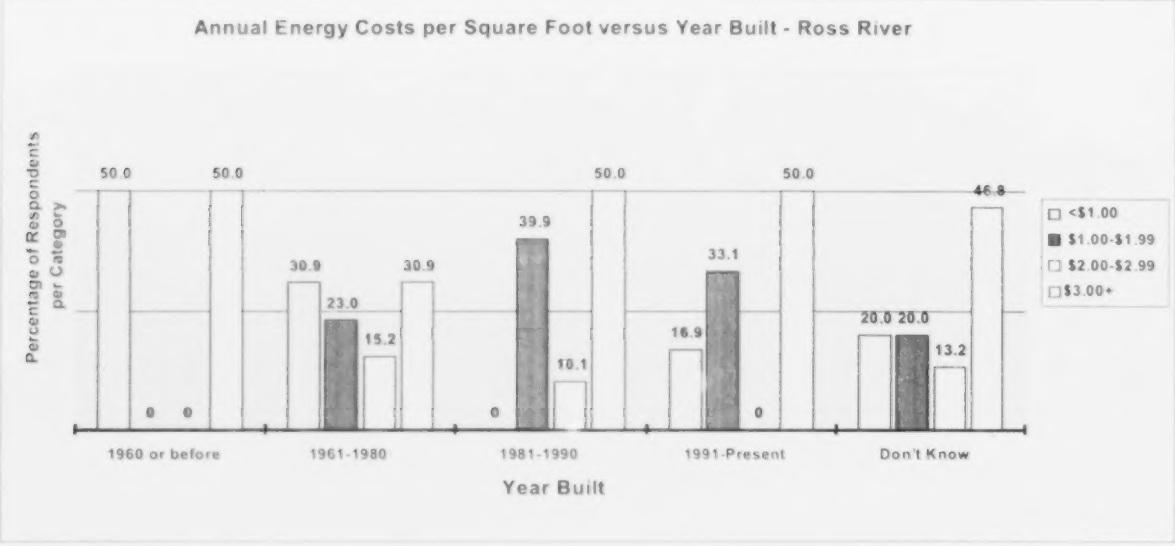

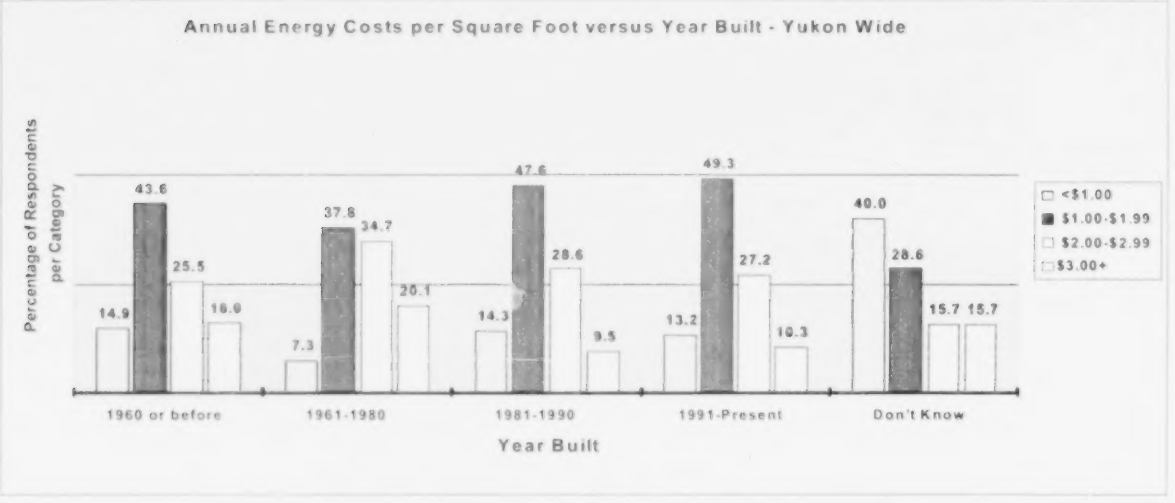

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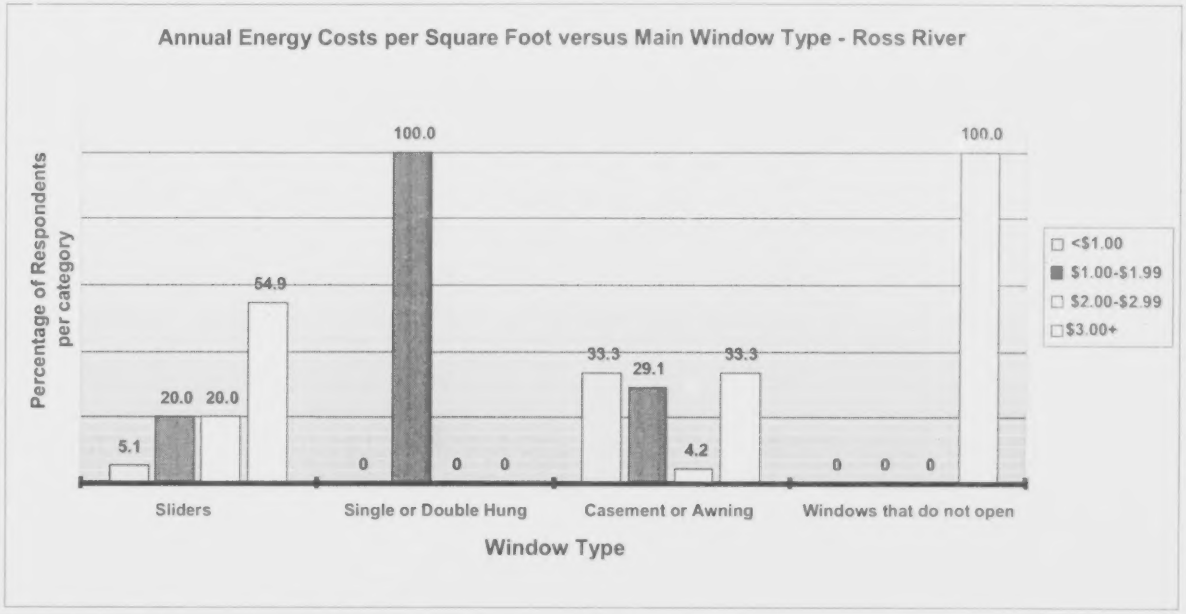
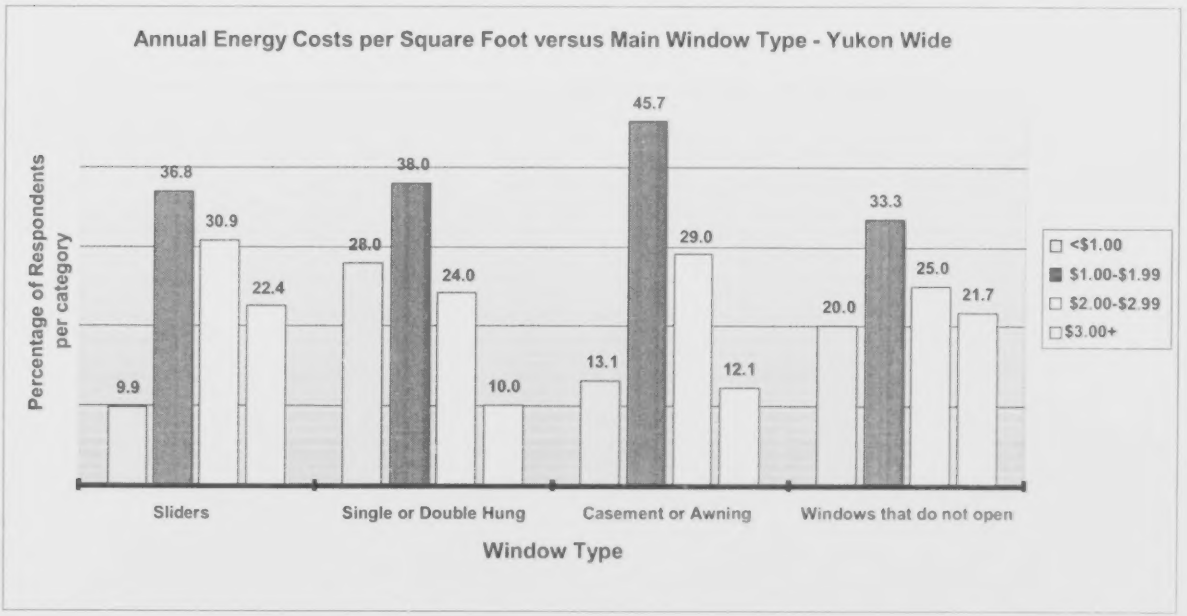
- A significant percentage of homes of all ages in Ross River have high heating costs, more than $3 per square foot.
- In Ross River, 50 percent of homes built between 1981 and 1990 and 50 percent of the homes built between 1991 and the present have heating costs greater than $3 per square foot.
- Only about 10 percent of all homes built between these periods in the Yukon as a whole have heating costs this high.
- Caution is advised in interpreting these results. Total numbers of dwellings in each category are quite low.

1.1.5 ANNUAL ENERGY COST VERSUS DWELLING'S MAIN WINDOW TYPE

These bar charts show the relationship between annual energy costs per square foot for householders and the dwelling's main window type.

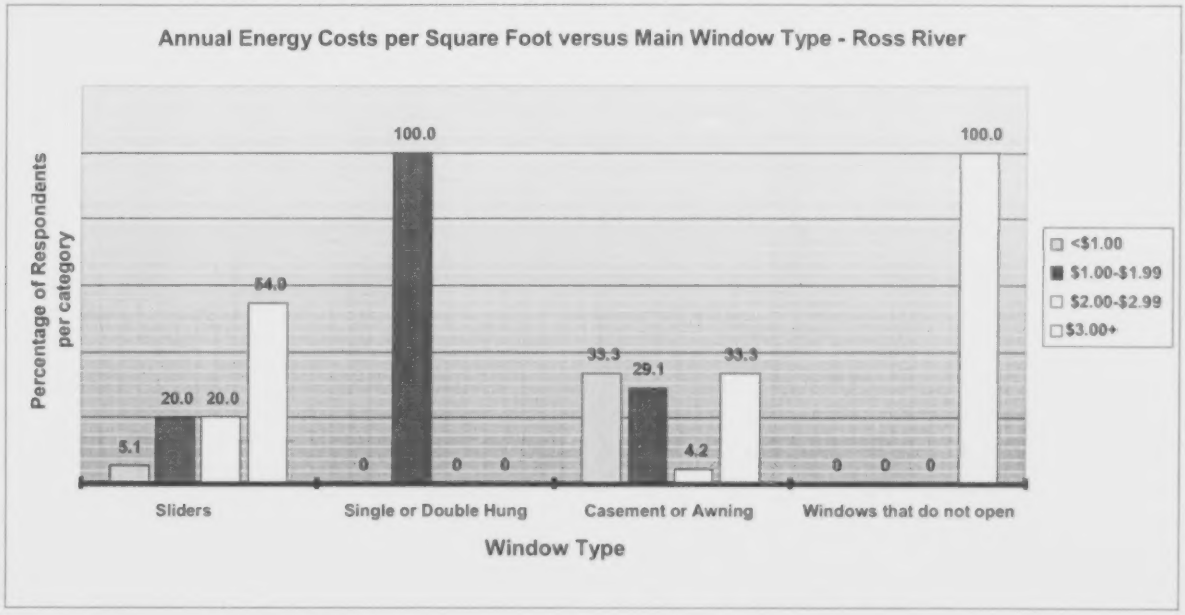


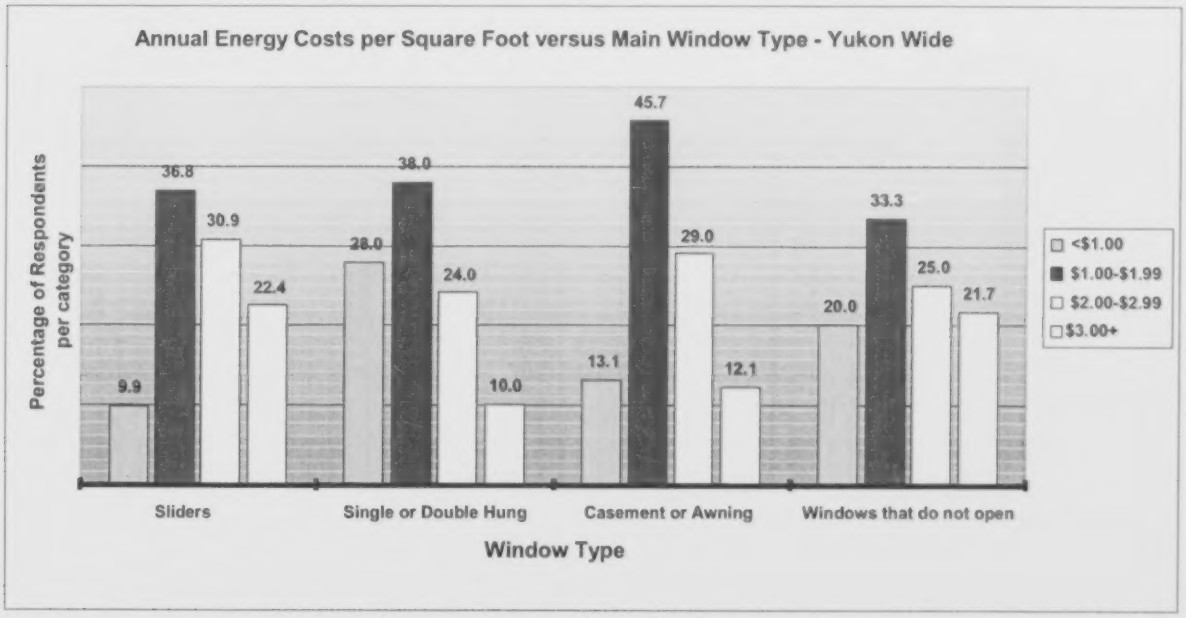


Definitions:
Sliders – windows that slide horizontally,
Single Hung – Lower portion of window slides upwards,
Double Hung – Lower portion of window slides upwards, and upper portion slides downwards, and
Casement – a portion of the window swings out horizontally or vertically.

1.1.5 ANNUAL ENERGY COST VERSUS DWELLING'S MAIN WINDOW TYPE

These bar charts show the relationship between annual energy costs per square foot for householders and the dwelling's main window type.





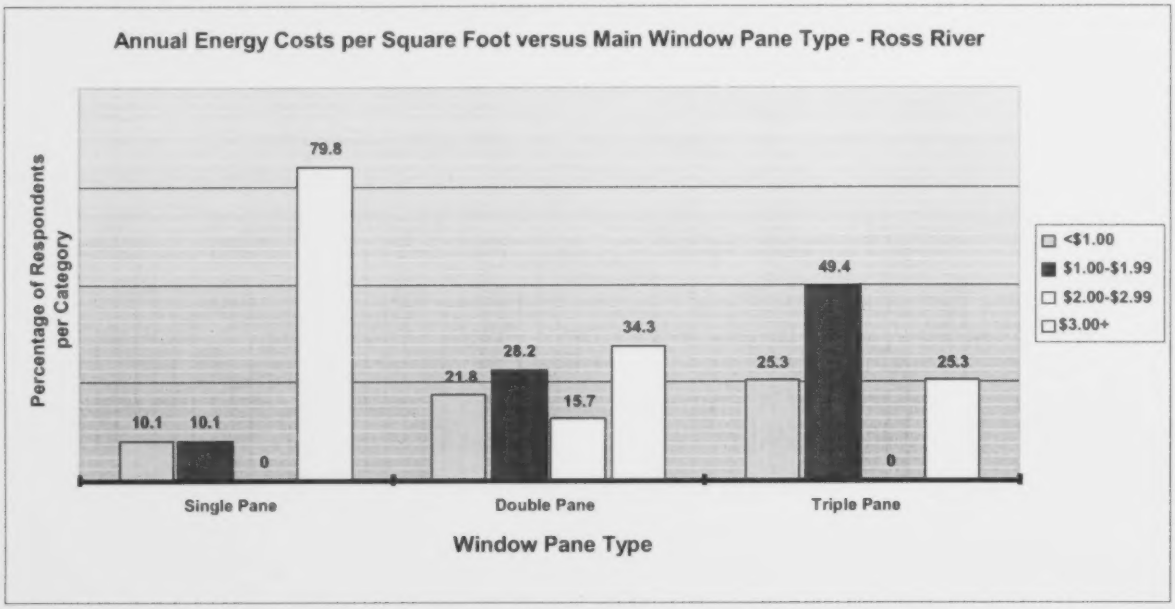
Definitions:
Sliders – windows that slide horizontally,
Single Hung – Lower portion of window slides upwards,
Double Hung – Lower portion of window slides upwards, and upper portion slides downwards, and
Casement – a portion of the window swings out horizontally or vertically.

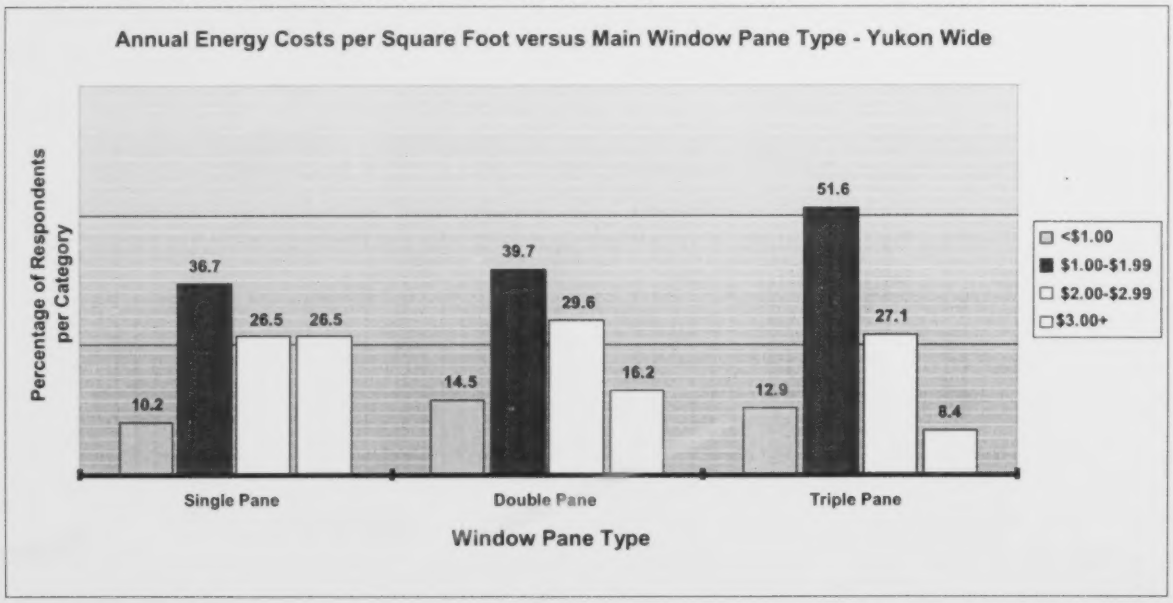
HIGHLIGHTS

- In Ross River, slider windows and windows that do not open seem to be associated with higher energy costs per square foot.
- 100 percent of dwellings with single or double hung windows have energy costs between $1 and $1.99 per square foot. This represents one household.
- Casement or awning windows show a somewhat better association with lower energy costs.
- 100 percent of dwellings with windows that do not open have energy costs over $3 per square foot. This represents one household.
- Note, caution should be exercised in identifying a strong causal relationship between one factor and another. There are other factors such as levels and locations of insulation, and door type that have a significant impact on heating costs.

1.1.6 ANNUAL ENERGY COST VERSUS DWELLING'S MAIN WINDOW PANE TYPE

These bar charts show the relationship between annual energy costs per square foot for householders and the dwelling's main window pane type.



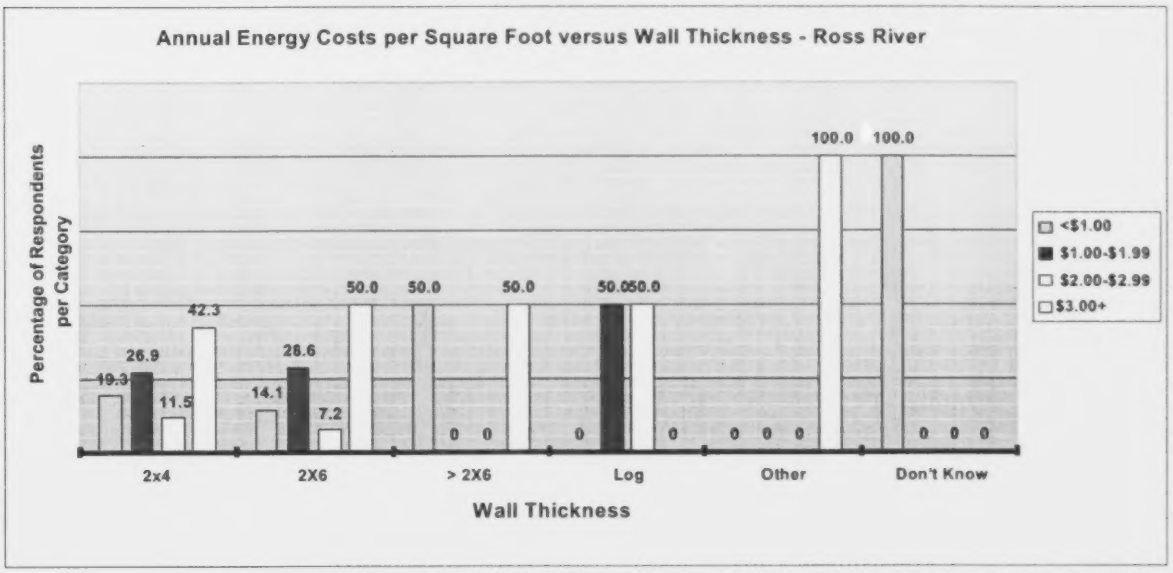


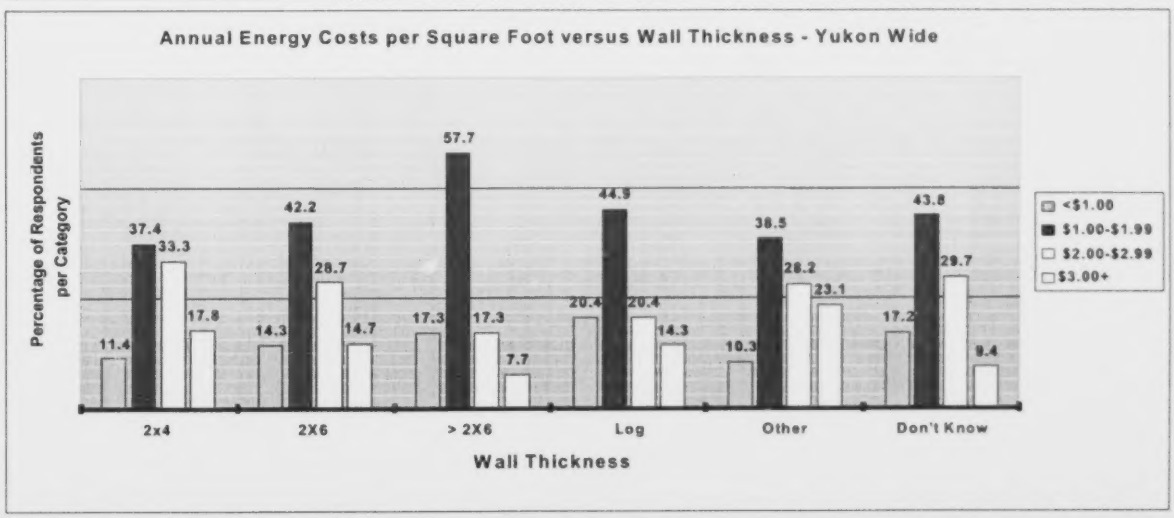
HIGHLIGHTS

- Generally, multiple windowpanes are associated with lower energy costs.

1.1.7 ANNUAL ENERGY COST VERSUS DWELLING'S WALL THICKNESS

These bar charts show the relationship between annual energy costs per square foot for householders and the dwelling's wall thickness.





HIGHLIGHTS

- The Yukon wide data shows that by increasing wall thickness there is a greater likelihood of lower heating energy costs per square foot. However, this trend is not clear in Ross River.
- The "Other" category includes wall construction that does not fit into any other category, for example, 2X3 walls.
- 100 percent of the "Other" category have energy costs over $3 per square foot. This represents one household.
- 100 percent of the "Don't Know" category have energy costs less that $1 per square foot. This represents one household.

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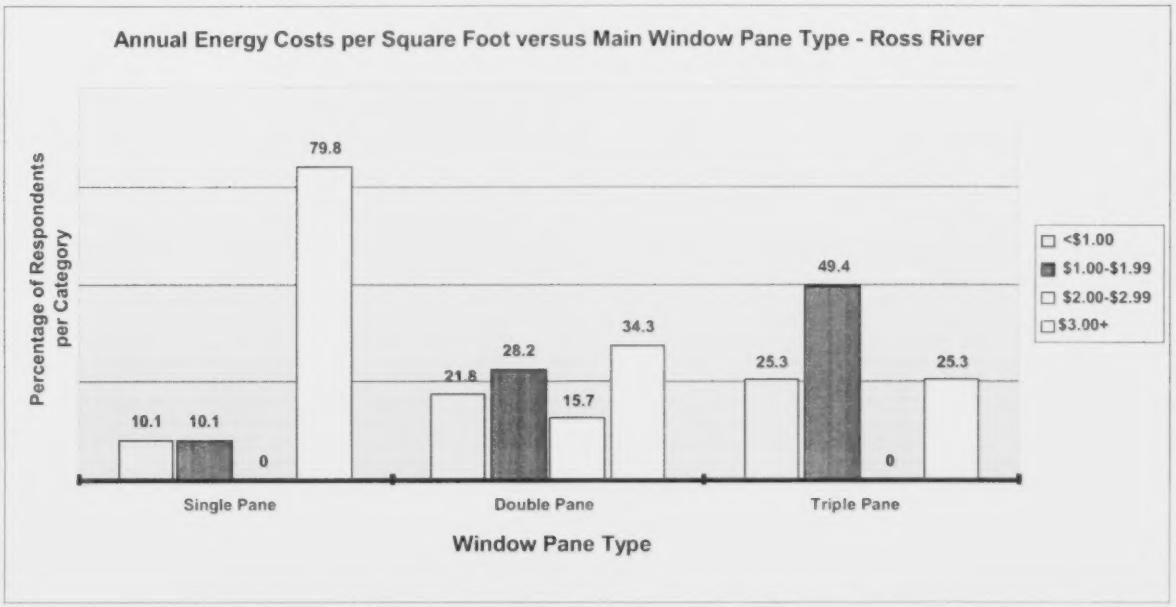
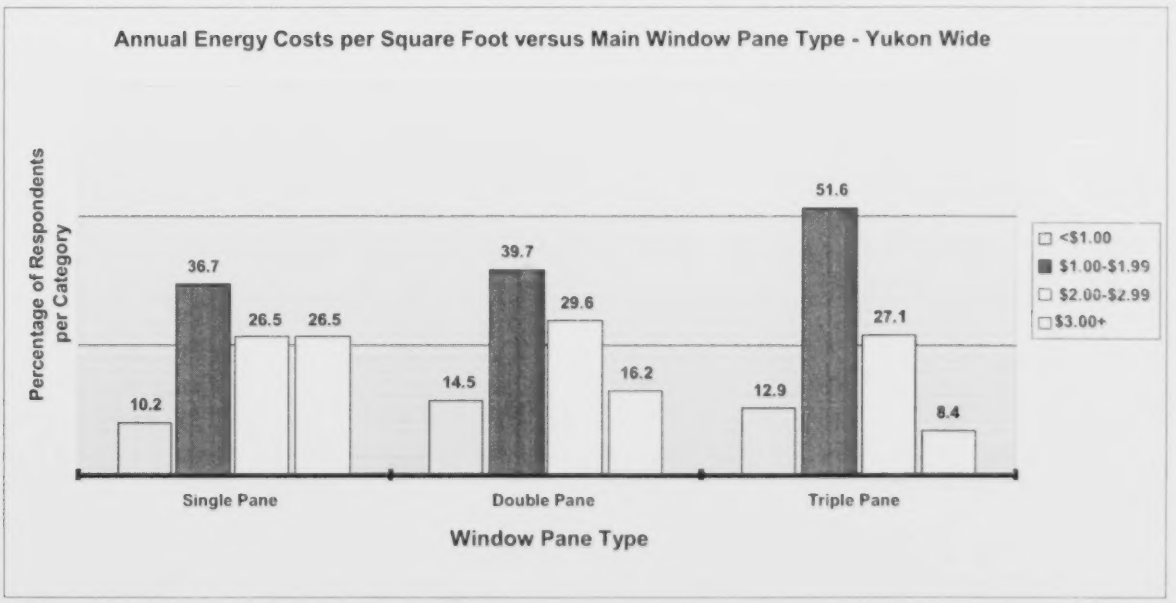
These bar charts show the relationship between annual energy costs per square foot for householders and the dwelling's main window pane type.





HIGHLIGHTS

- Generally, multiple windowpanes are associated with lower energy costs.

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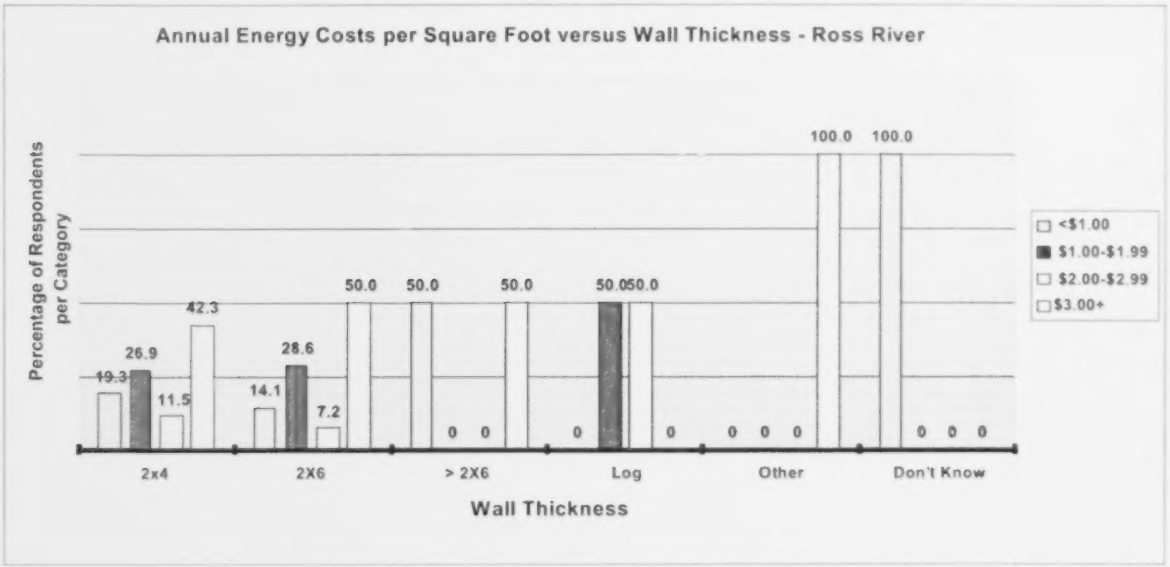
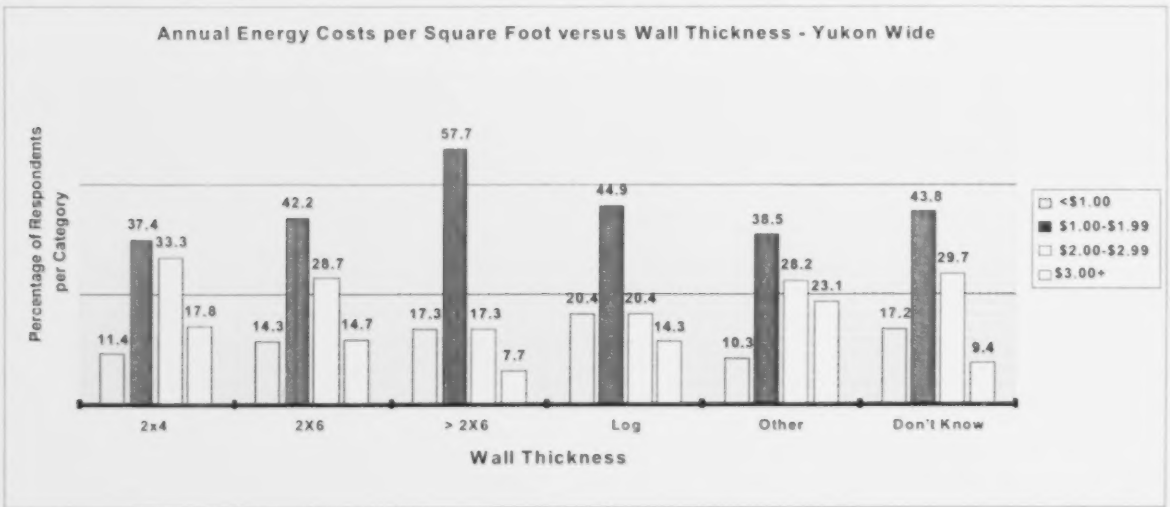
These bar charts show the relationship between annual energy costs per square foot for householders and the dwelling's wall thickness.





HIGHLIGHTS

- The Yukon wide data shows that by increasing wall thickness there is a greater likelihood of lower heating energy costs per square foot. However, this trend is not clear in Ross River.
- The "Other" category includes wall construction that does not fit into any other category, for example, 2X3 walls.
- 100 percent of the "Other" category have energy costs over $3 per square foot. This represents one household.
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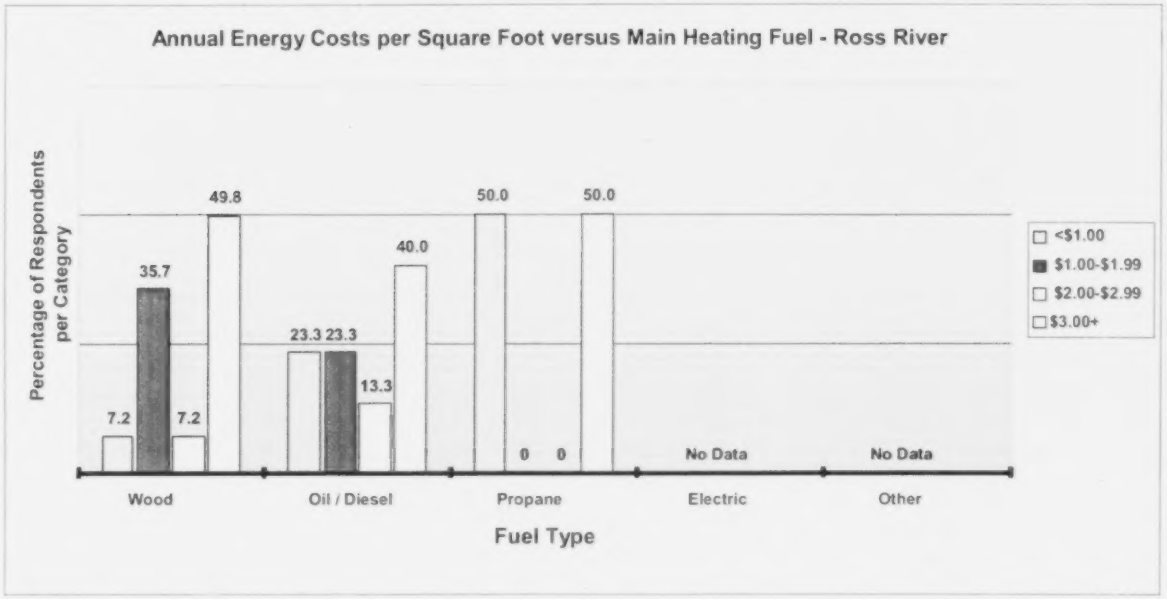
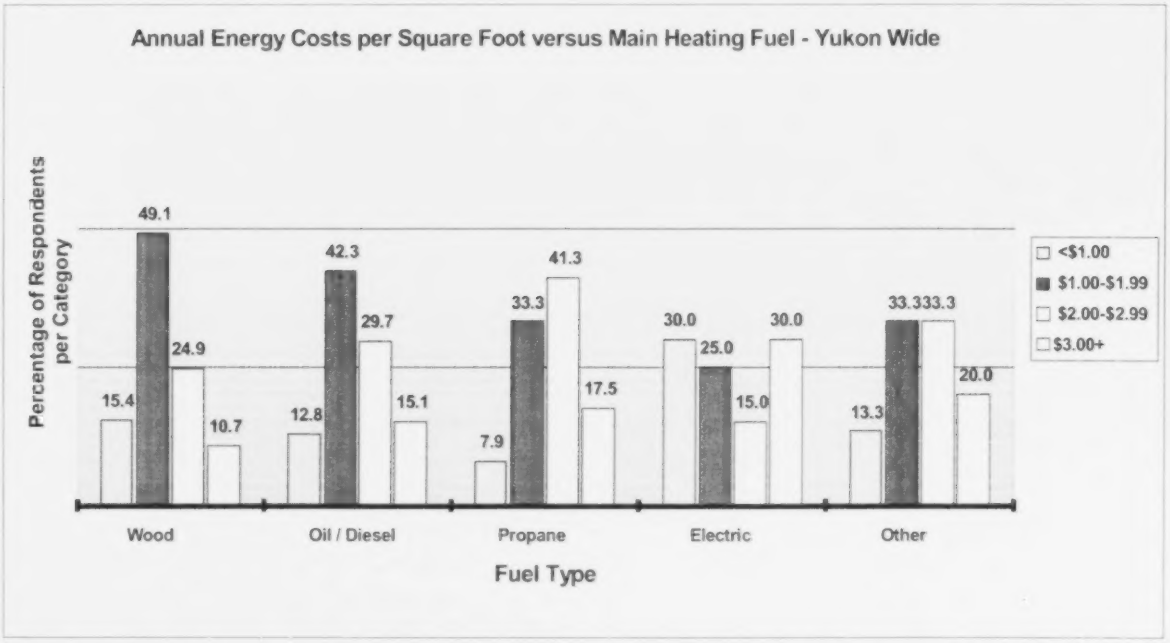
1.1.8 ANNUAL ENERGY COST VERSUS DWELLING'S MAIN HEATING FUEL

These bar charts show the relationship between annual energy costs per square foot for householders and the dwelling's main heating fuel.



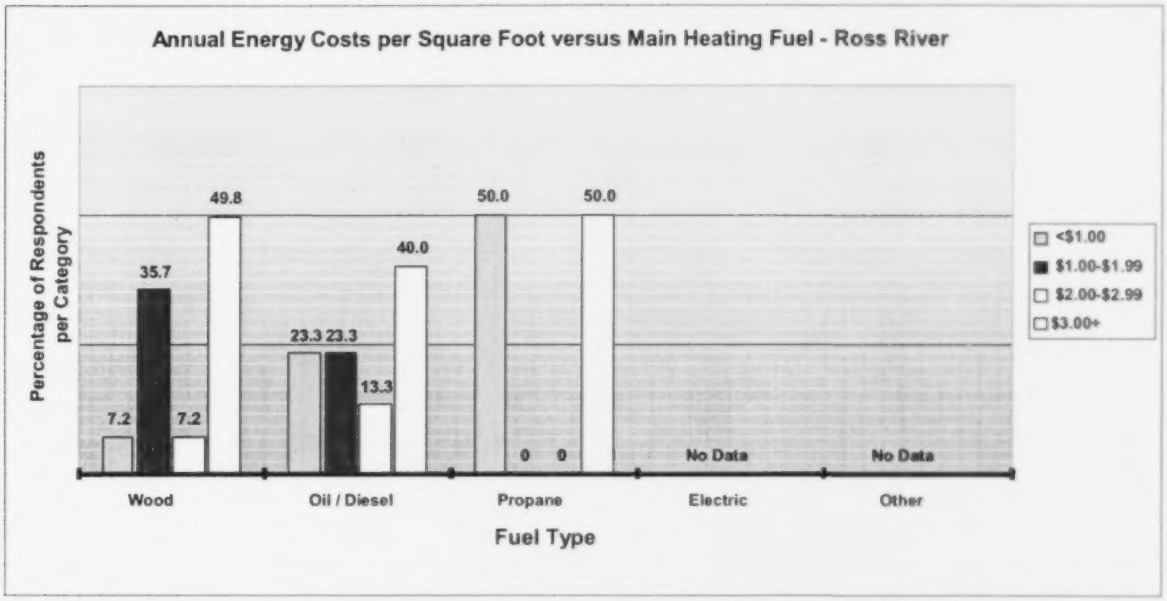


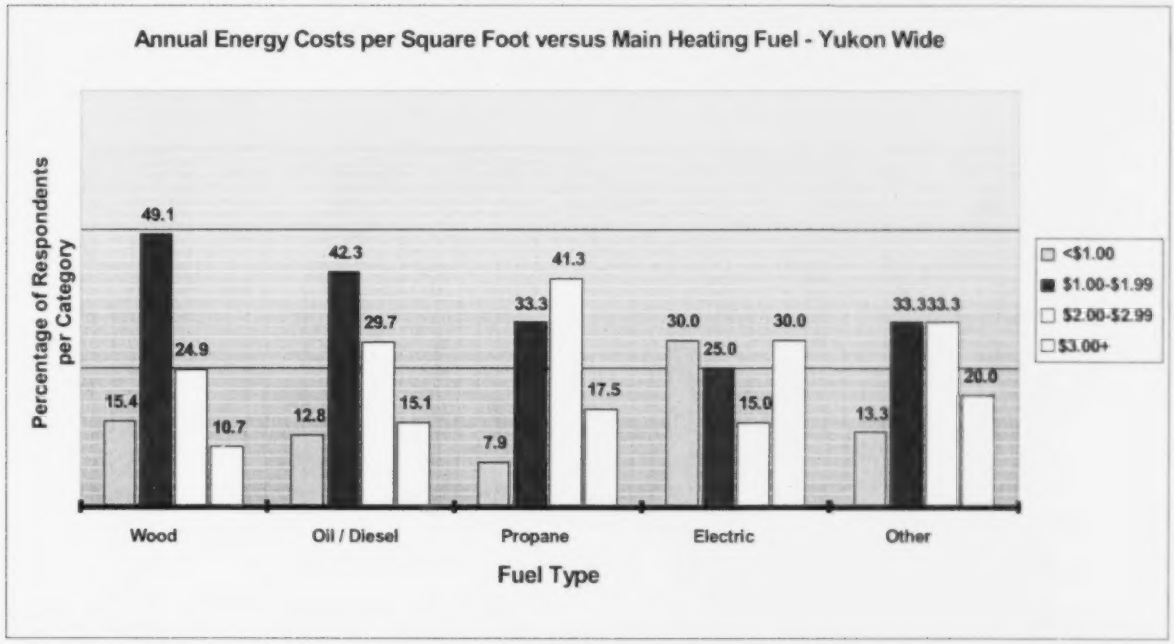
HIGHLIGHTS

- 49.8 percent of wood heated dwellings have heating costs greater than $3 per square foot.
- 40 percent of oil/diesel heated dwellings have heating costs greater than $3 per square foot.

1.1.8 ANNUAL ENERGY COST VERSUS DWELLING'S MAIN HEATING FUEL

These bar charts show the relationship between annual energy costs per square foot for householders and the dwelling's main heating fuel.





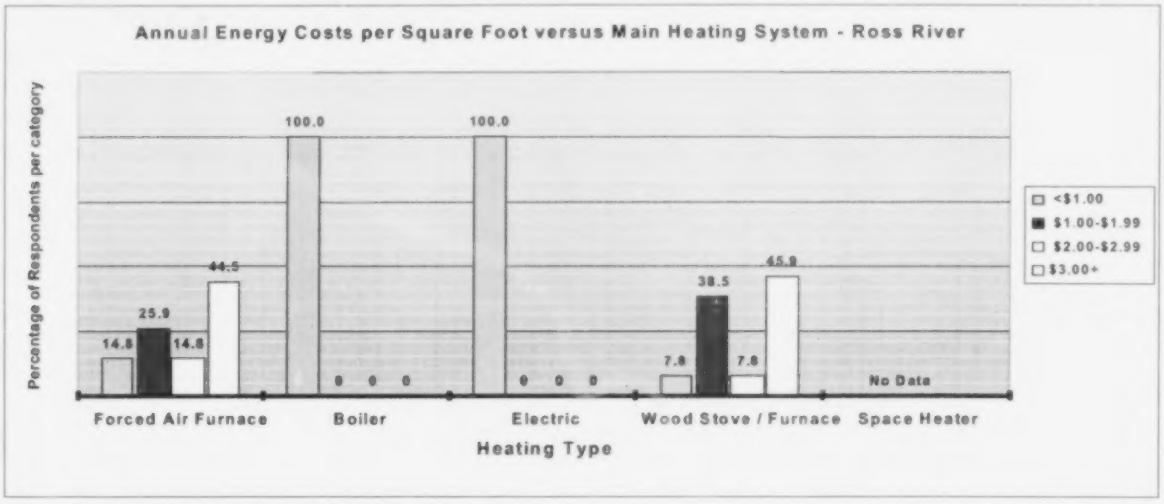
HIGHLIGHTS

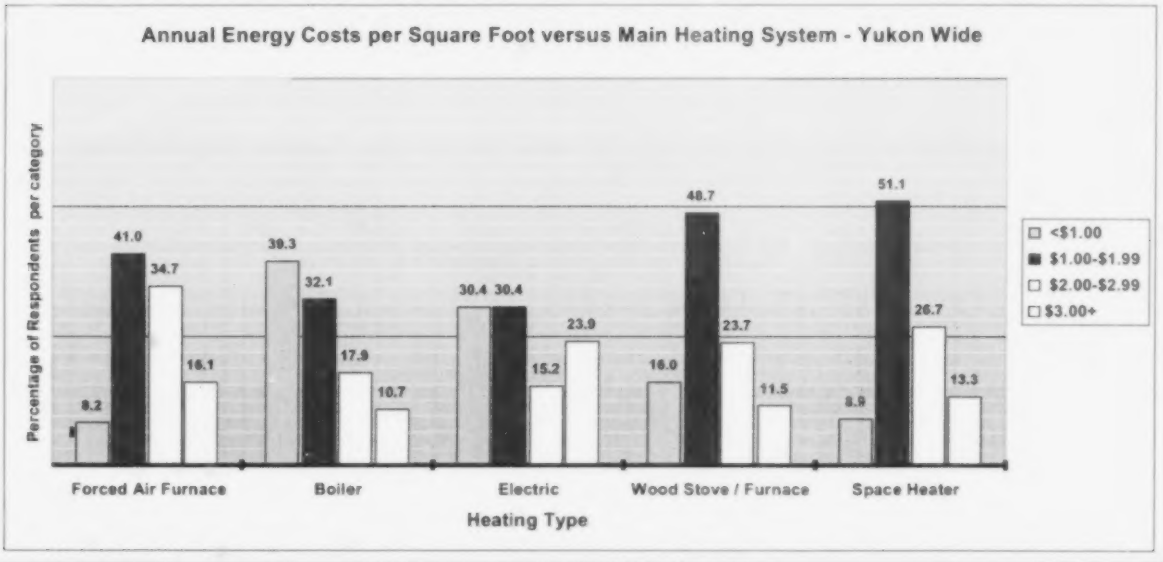
- 49.8 percent of wood heated dwellings have heating costs greater than $3 per square foot.
- 40 percent of oil/diesel heated dwellings have heating costs greater than $3 per square foot.

- 50 percent of propane heated dwellings have heating costs greater than $3 per square foot.
- These are significantly higher than corresponding Yukon wide percentages.
- There is no data for the "Electric" category.
- The "Other" category includes fuel that does not fit into any other category, for example, kerosene. For example, the main fuel source may be oil, the second source may be wood. In this example, wood is included in the "Other " category.
- There is no data for the "Other" category.
- Note, it is important to remember that factors other than the type of heating fuel have an impact on heating efficiency and costs.

1.1.9 ANNUAL ENERGY COST VERSUS DWELLING'S MAIN HEATING SYSTEM

These bar charts show the relationship between annual energy costs per square foot for householders and the dwelling's main heating system.



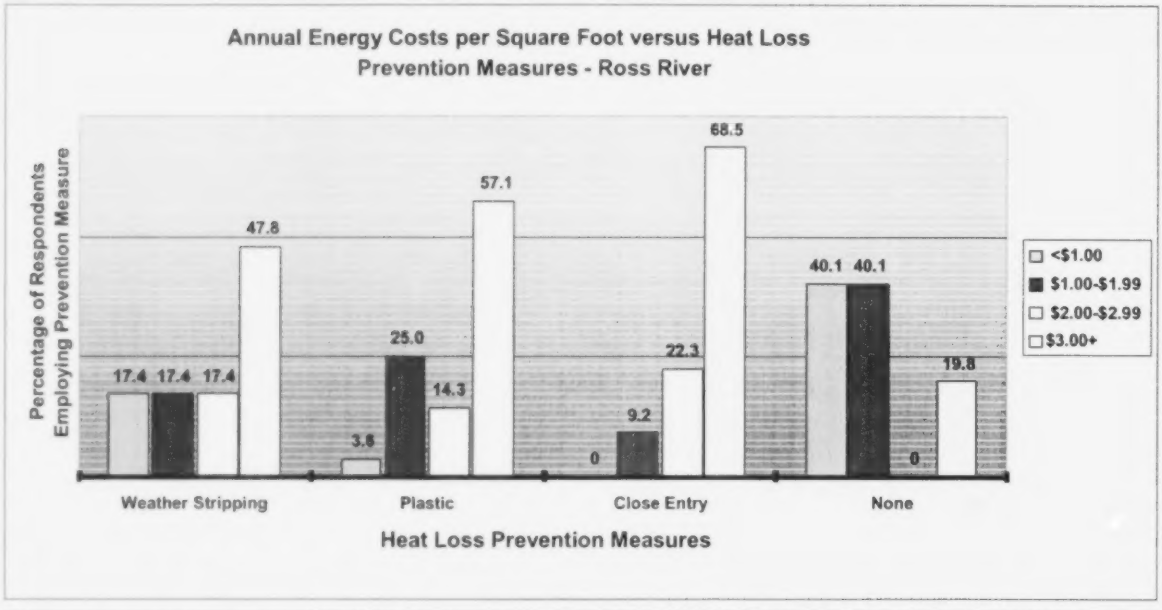


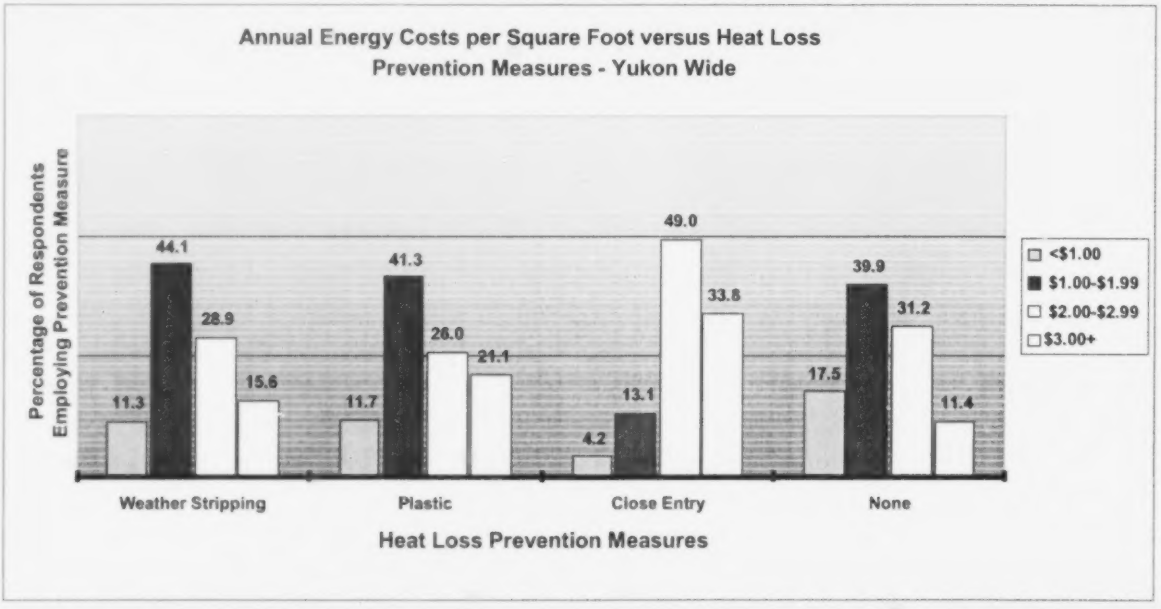
HIGHLIGHTS

- Of dwellings whose main heating system is a forced air furnace, 45 percent have heating costs greater than $3 per square foot, and 41 percent have heating costs less than $2 per square foot.
- 100 percent of dwellings with a boiler have energy costs of less than $1 per square foot. This represents three households.
- 100 percent of dwellings with electric heat have energy costs of less than $1 per square foot. This represents one household.
- Of dwellings whose main heating system is a woodstove/furnace, 46 percent have heating costs greater than $3 per square foot, and 46 percent have heating costs less than $2 per square foot.
- There is no data for dwellings with space heaters.

1.1.10 ANNUAL ENERGY COST VERSUS HEAT LOSS PREVENTION MEASURES

These bar charts show the relationship between annual energy costs per square foot for householders and measures taken to reduce heat loss.



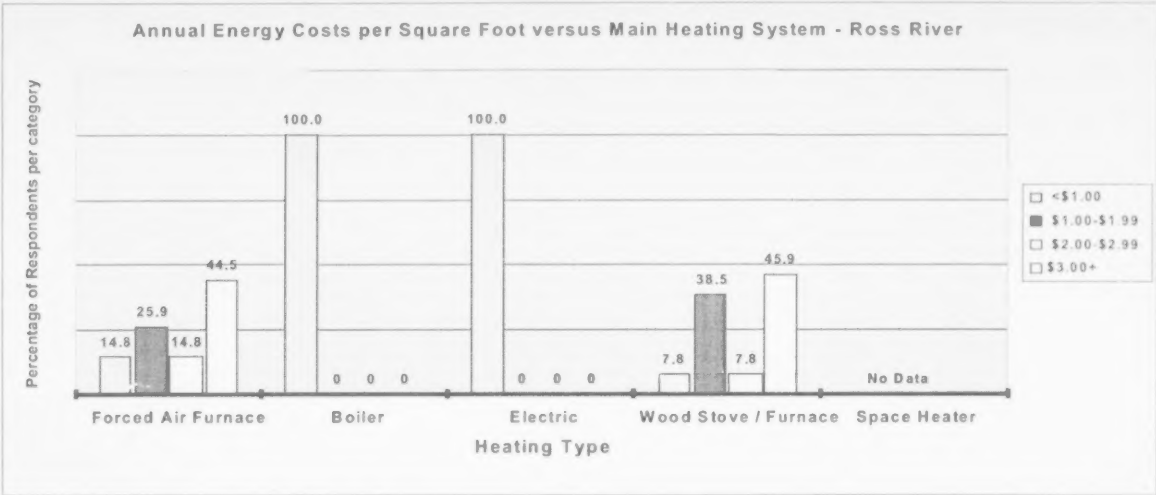


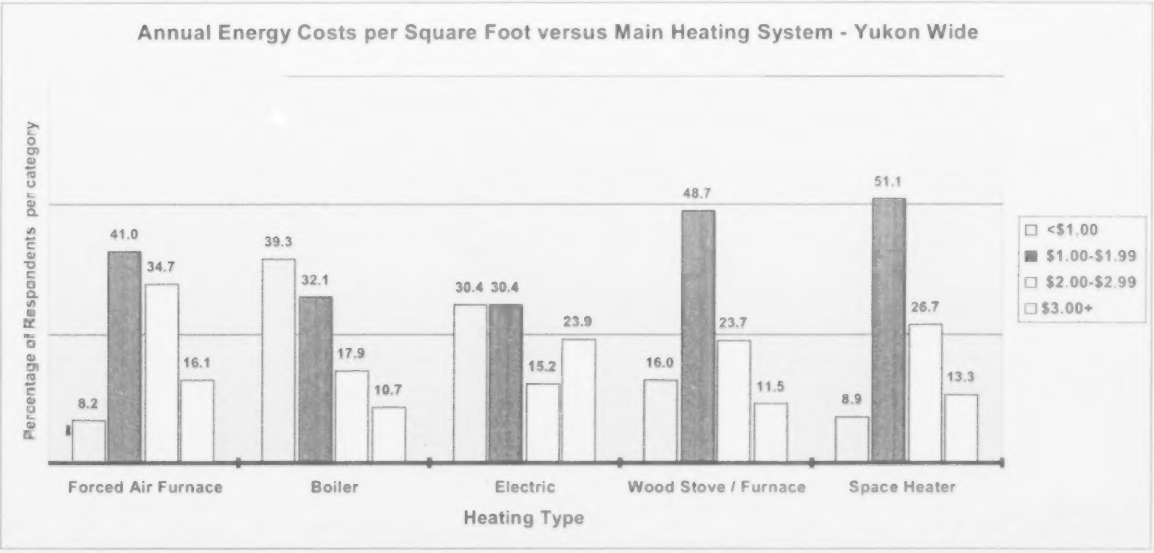
HIGHLIGHTS

- Of households that close an entry as a heat loss prevention method, 90.8 percent have heating costs over $2 per square foot. Only 9.2 percent of these households heat their homes for less than $2 per square foot.
- Of households that use no heat loss prevention methods, 80.2 percent have heating costs lower than $2 per square foot. 19.8 percent pay more than $3 per square foot for heating.

1.1.9 ANNUAL ENERGY COST VERSUS DWELLING'S MAIN HEATING SYSTEM

These bar charts show the relationship between annual energy costs per square foot for householders and the dwelling's main heating system.





HIGHLIGHTS

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- 100 percent of dwellings with a boiler have energy costs of less than $1 per square foot. This represents three households.
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- Of dwellings whose main heating system is a woodstove/furnace, 46 percent have heating costs greater than $3 per square foot, and 46 percent have heating costs less than $2 per square foot.
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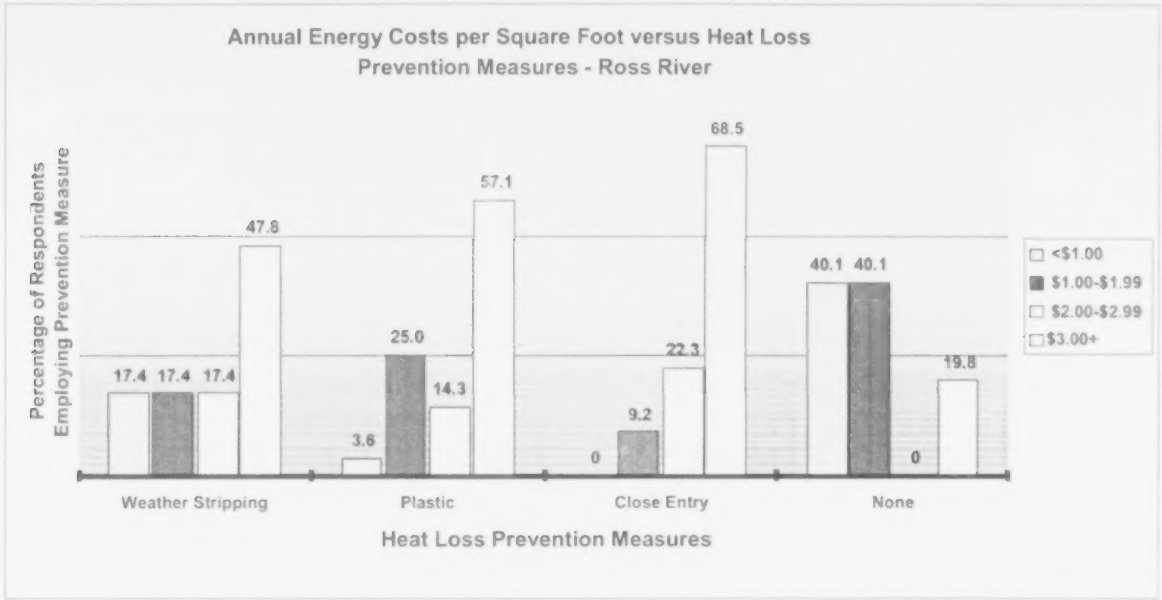
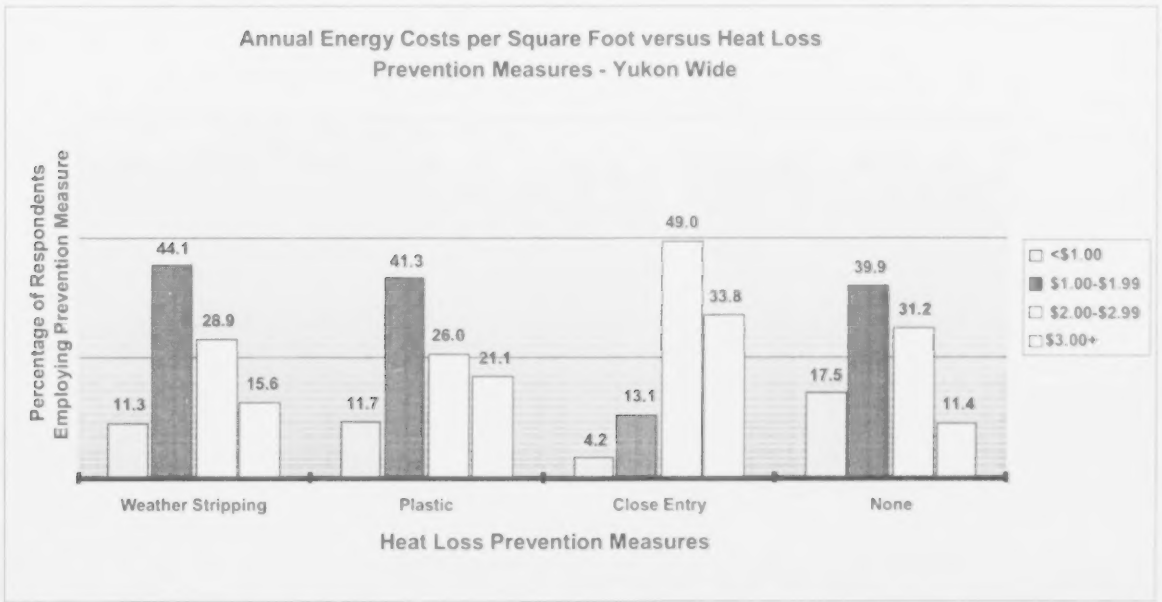
These bar charts show the relationship between annual energy costs per square foot for householders and measures taken to reduce heat loss.



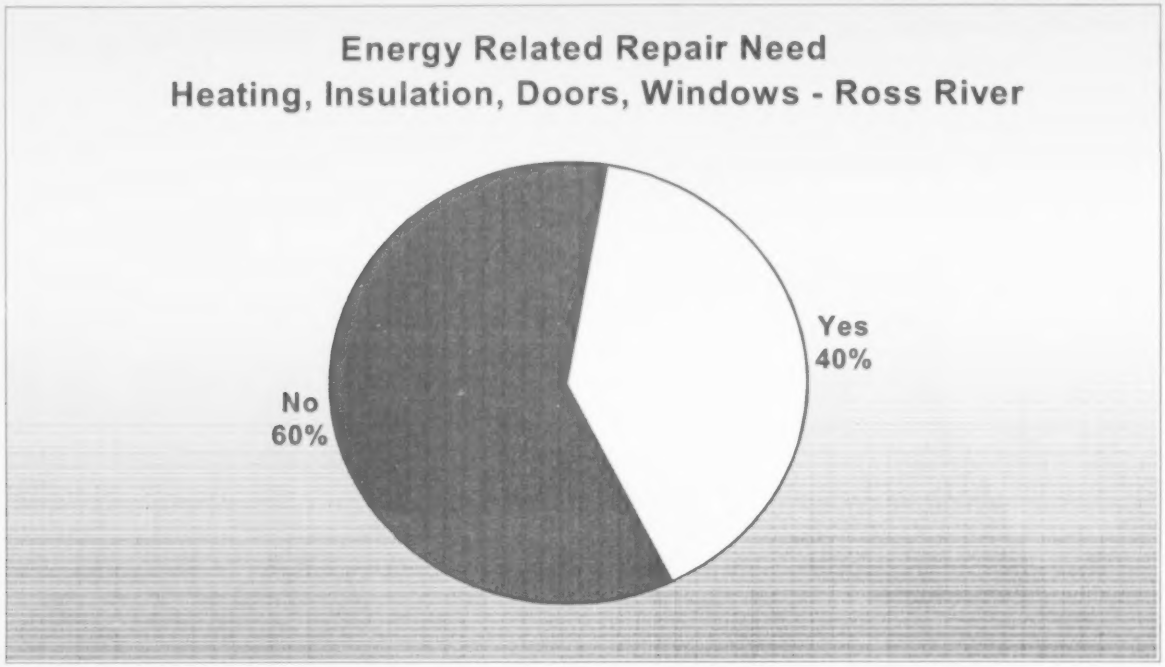


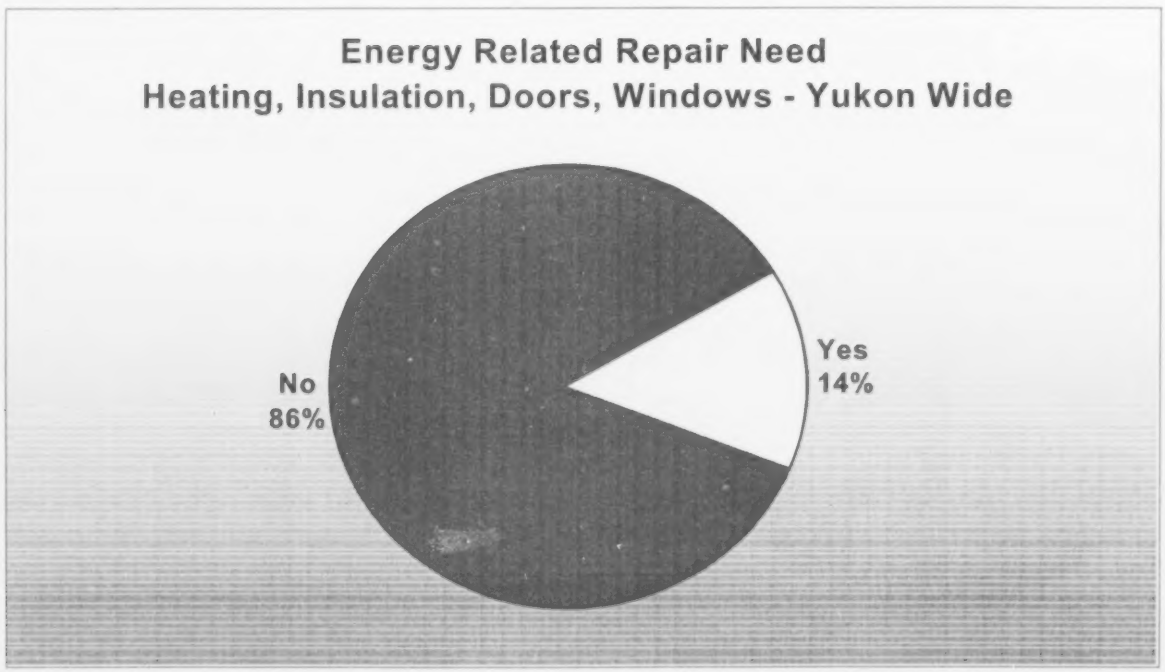
HIGHLIGHTS

- Of households that close an entry as a heat loss prevention method, 90.8 percent have heating costs over $2 per square foot. Only 9.2 percent of these households heat their homes for less than $2 per square foot.
- Of households that use no heat loss prevention methods, 80.2 percent have heating costs lower than $2 per square foot. 19.8 percent pay more than $3 per square foot for heating.

1.1.11 PERCENTAGE OF DWELLINGS WITH AN ENERGY RELATED REPAIR NEED

These pie charts show the percentage of dwellings requiring energy related repairs.



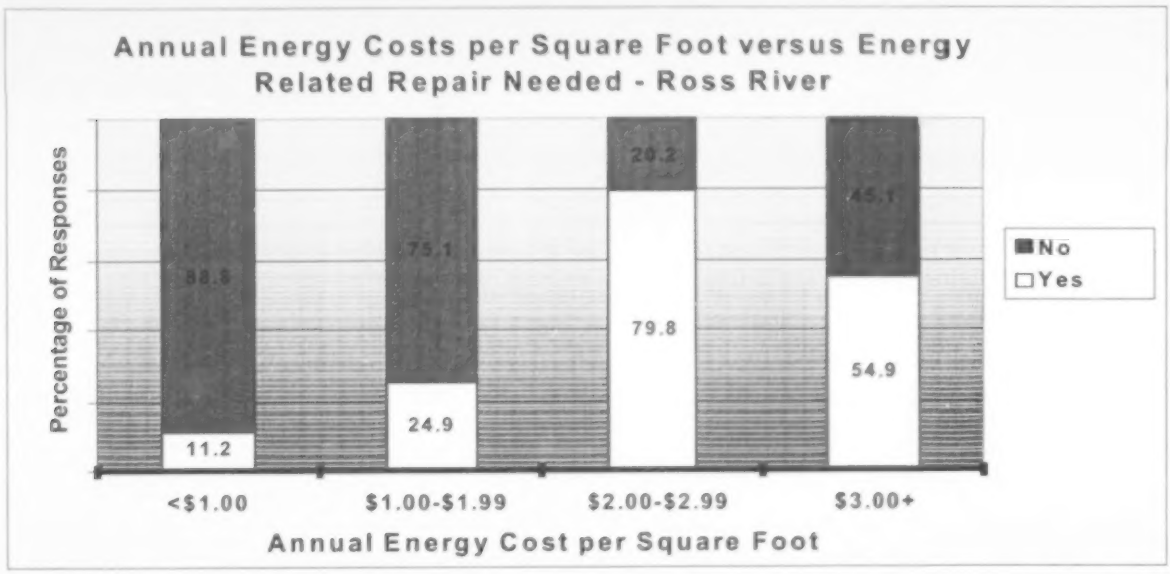


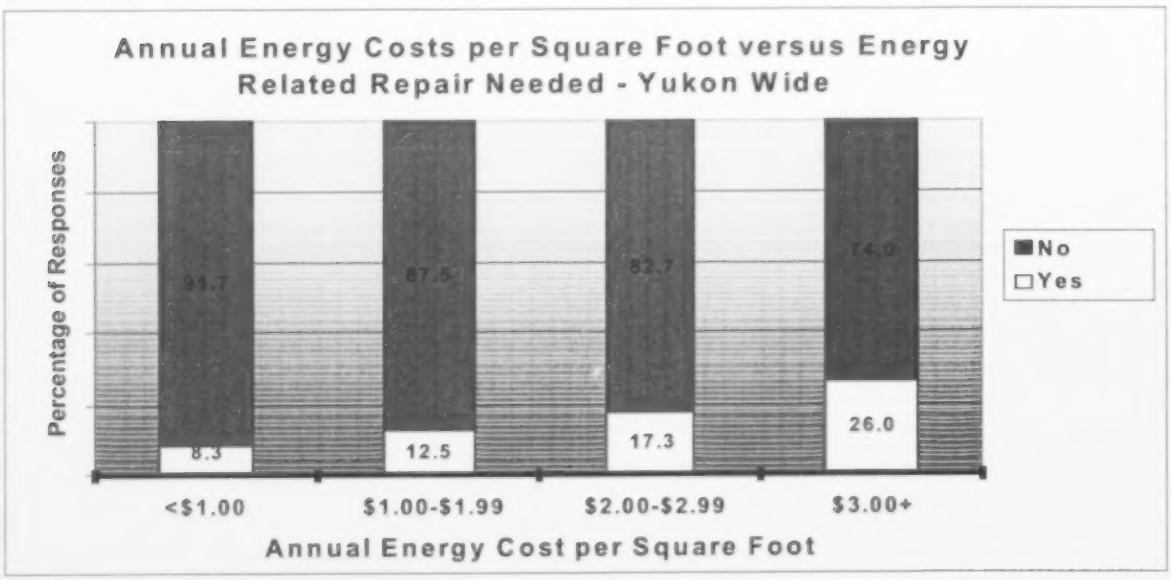
HIGHLIGHTS

- Ross River results show significantly more need for energy related repairs than the average Yukon household, 40 percent of Ross River dwellings versus 14 percent of all Yukon dwellings.

1.1.12 ANNUAL ENERGY COST PER SQUARE FOOT VERSUS ENERGY RELATED REPAIR NEED

These bar charts show the relationship between annual energy costs per square foot for householders and energy related repair needs.





HIGHLIGHTS

- Generally, higher energy costs correlate with higher perceived need for energy related repairs.
- In each energy cost category, there is greater perceived need for energy related repairs in Ross River as compared to the Yukon as a whole.

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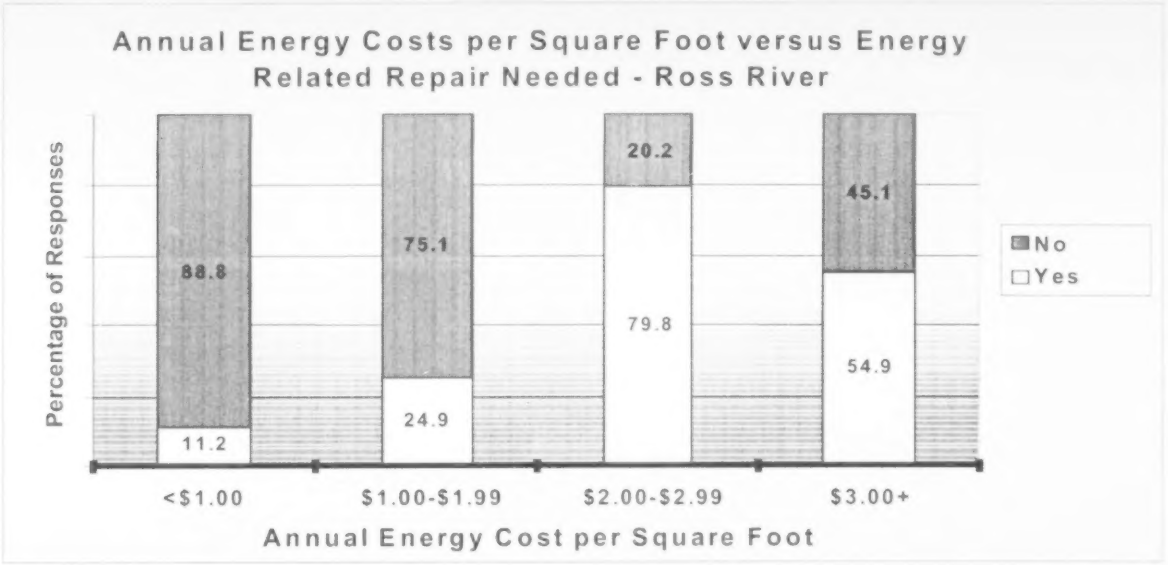
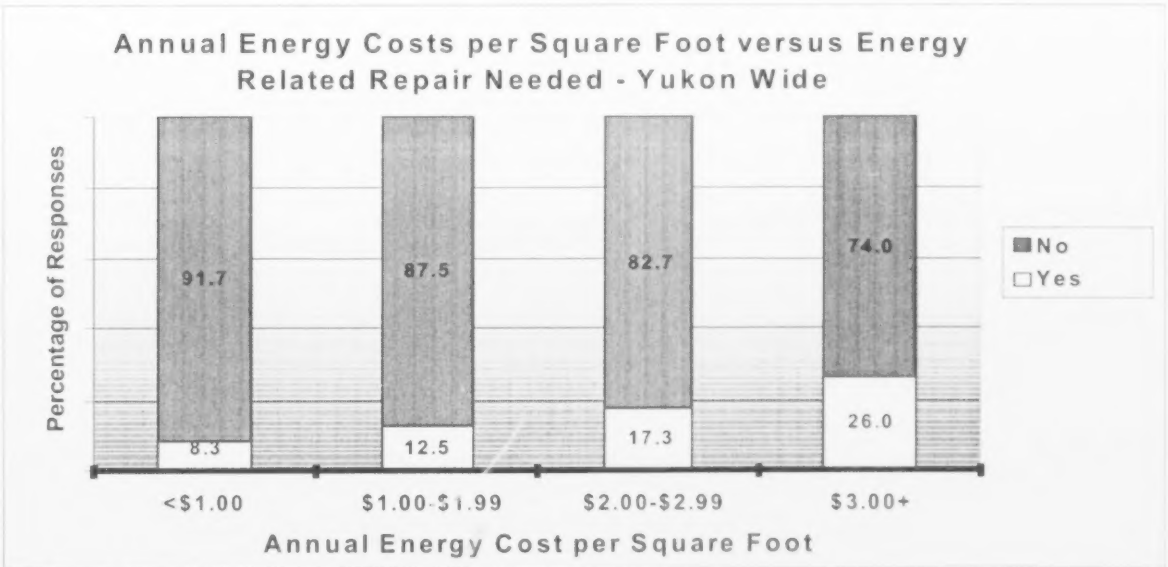




HIGHLIGHTS

- Generally, higher energy costs correlate with higher perceived need for energy related repairs.
- In each energy cost category, there is greater perceived need for energy related repairs in Ross River as compared to the Yukon as a whole.

1.2 STATE OF REPAIR

The next seven sub-themes show various indicators related to the state of repair of dwellings in Ross River and the Yukon:

⇒ MAJOR REPAIR NEEDED,

⇒ MAJOR REPAIR NEEDED VERSUS HOUSEHOLD INCOME,

⇒ TYPE OF MAJOR REPAIR NEEDED,

⇒ PERCENTAGE OF HOUSEHOLDS THAT OWN THEIR DWELLINGS PLANNING MAJOR REPAIR,

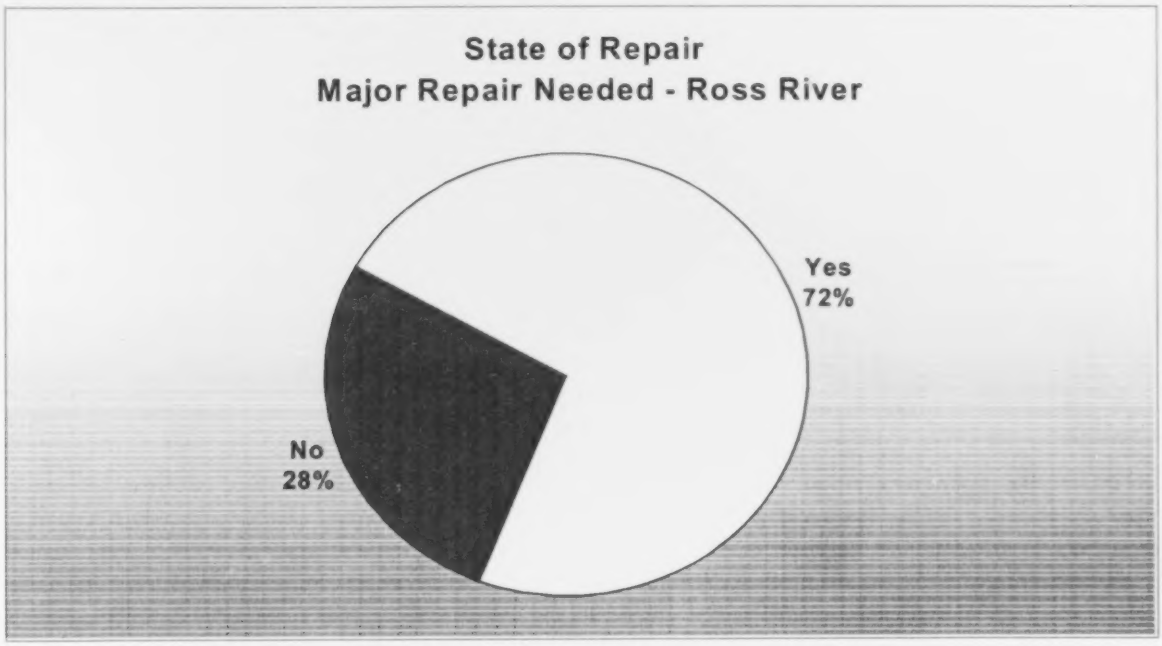
⇒ ESTIMATED COST OF PLANNED MAJOR REPAIR,

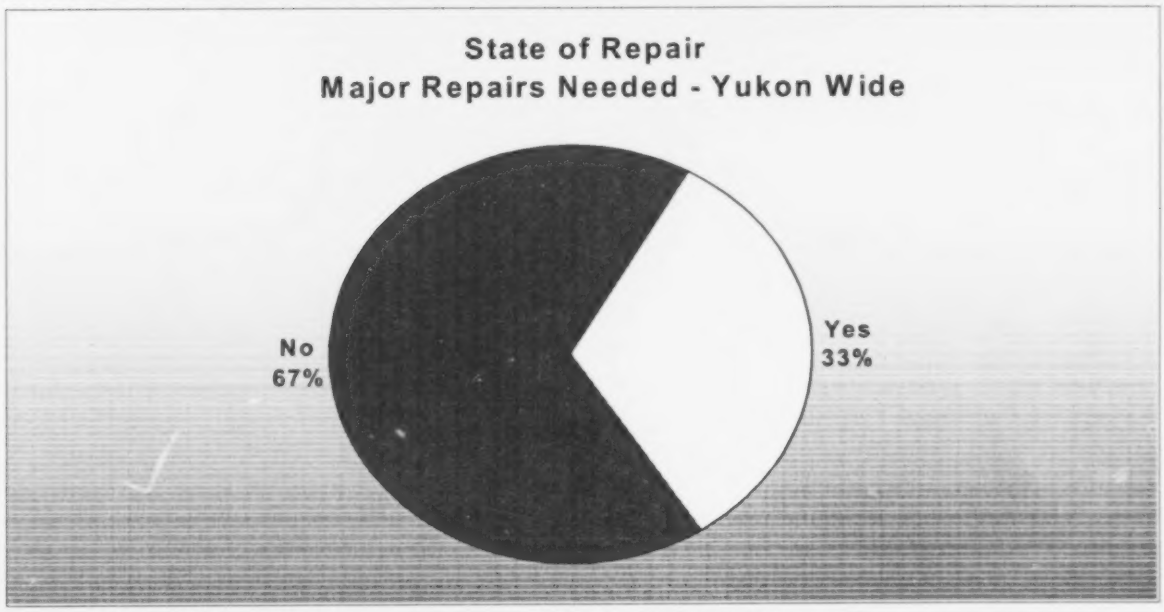
⇒ PERCENTAGE OF DWELLINGS NEEDING MINOR REPAIR,

⇒ TYPE OF MINOR REPAIR NEEDED.

1.2.1 MAJOR REPAIR NEEDED

These pie charts show the percentage of dwellings that require major repairs both in Ross River and the Yukon.



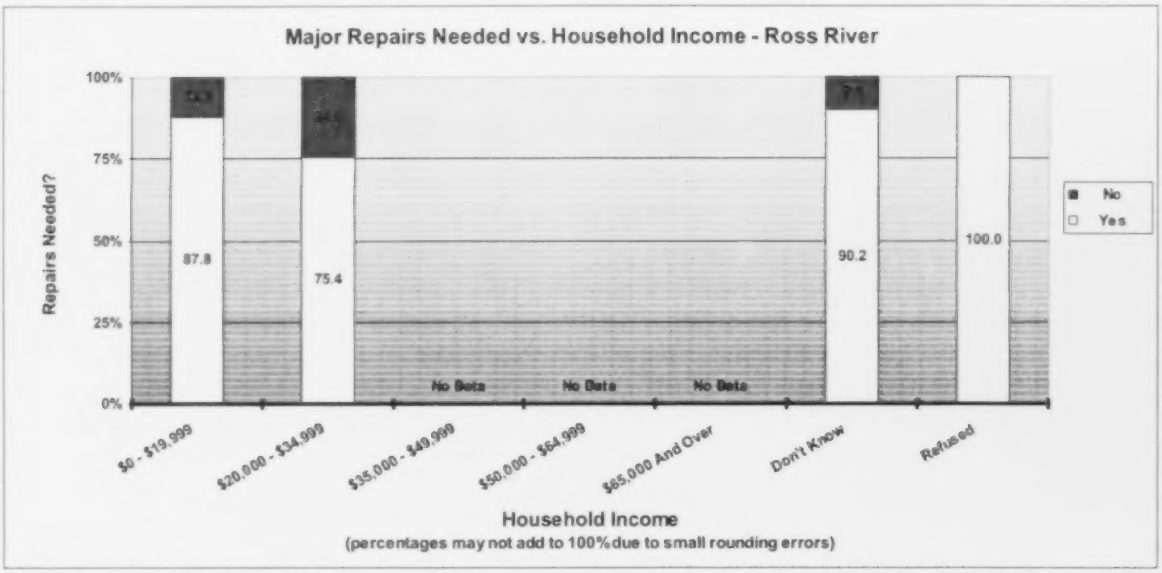


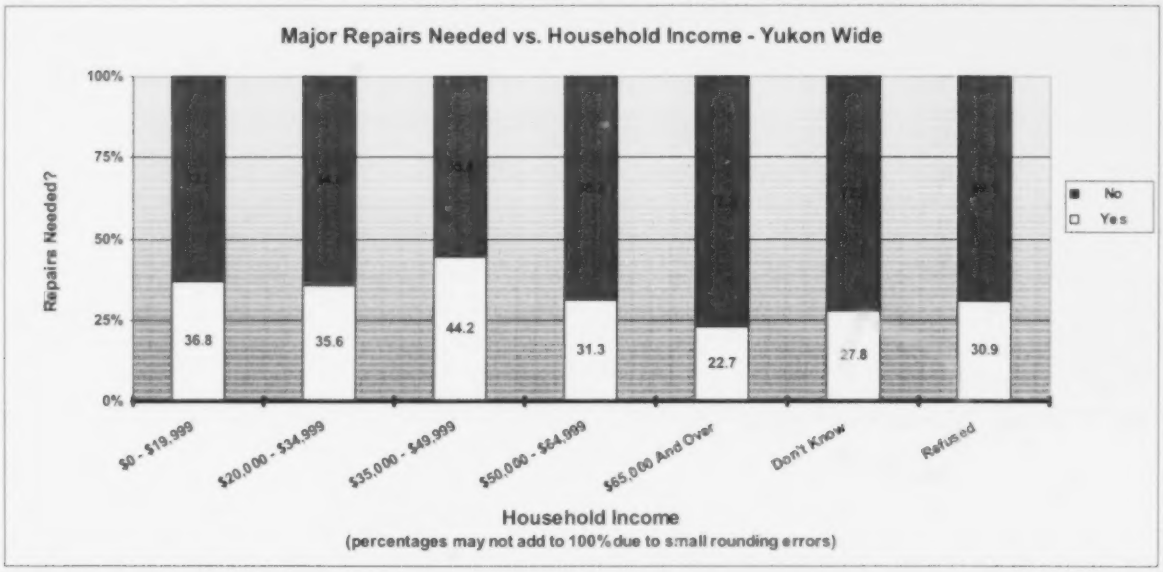
HIGHLIGHTS

- Ross River results are quite different from those from the Yukon in general.
- 72 percent of all dwellings in Ross River require major repairs.
- 33 percent of all dwellings in the territory require major repairs.

1.2.2 MAJOR REPAIR NEEDED VERSUS HOUSEHOLD INCOME

These bar charts compare household income with the need for major repairs on the household's dwelling.



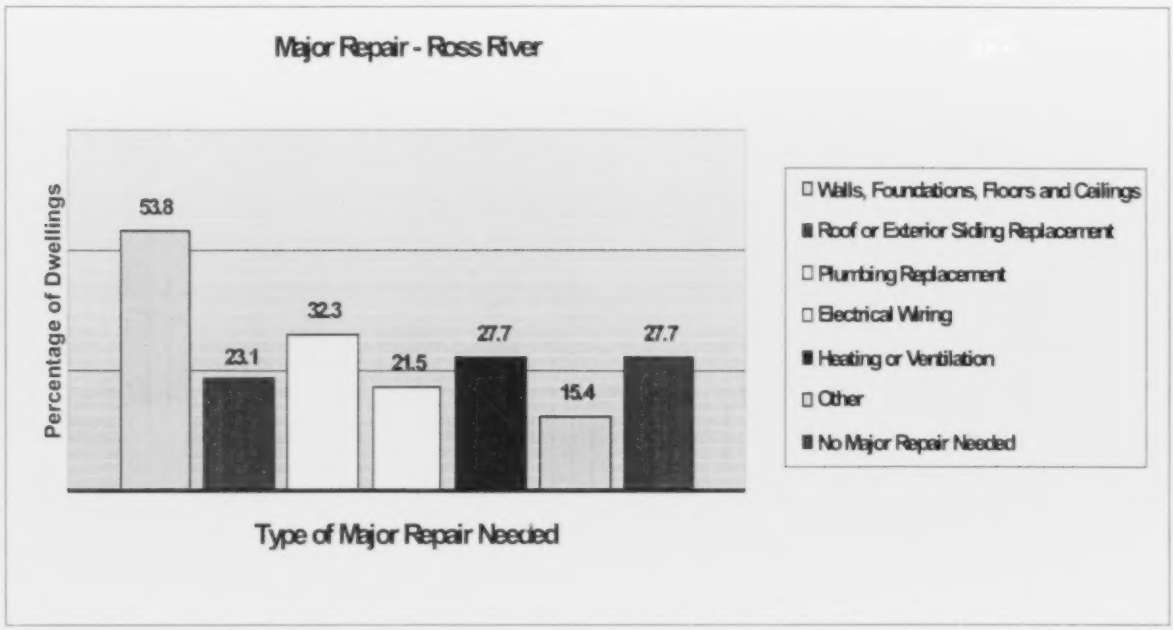


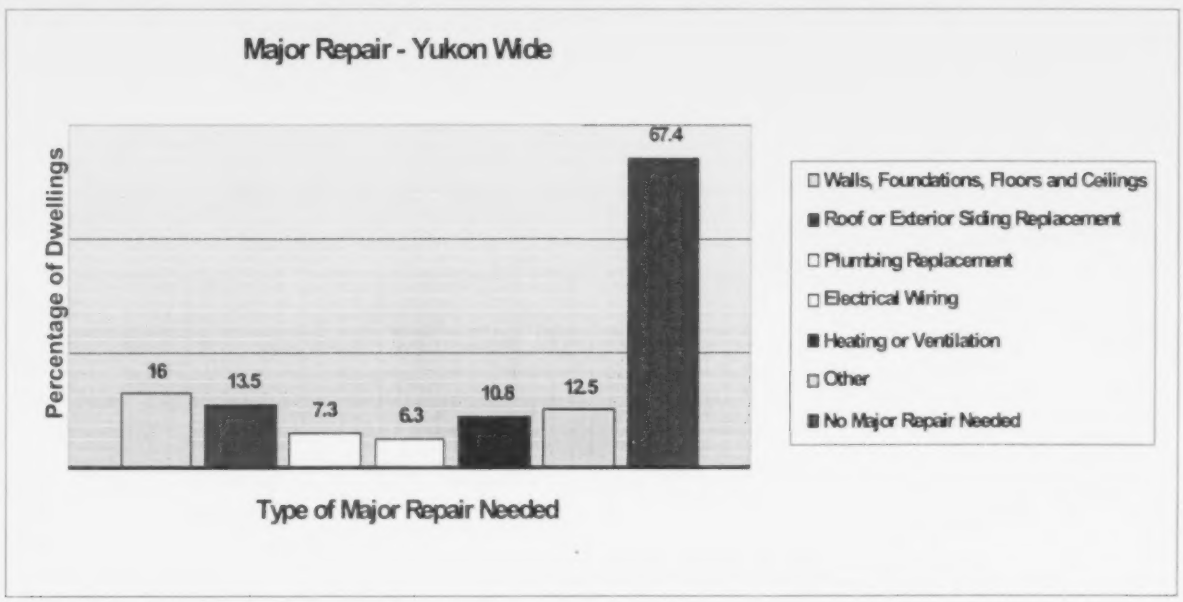
HIGHLIGHTS

- Households in each of the four represented income categories in Ross River show significantly greater need for major repairs than do corresponding income categories in the Yukon.
- There is no data for household income ranges of $35,000 to $49,000, $50,000 to $64,999, and $65,000 and over.

1.2.3 TYPE OF MAJOR REPAIR NEEDED

The types of repairs needed are shown below. Respondents may have provided more than one response.



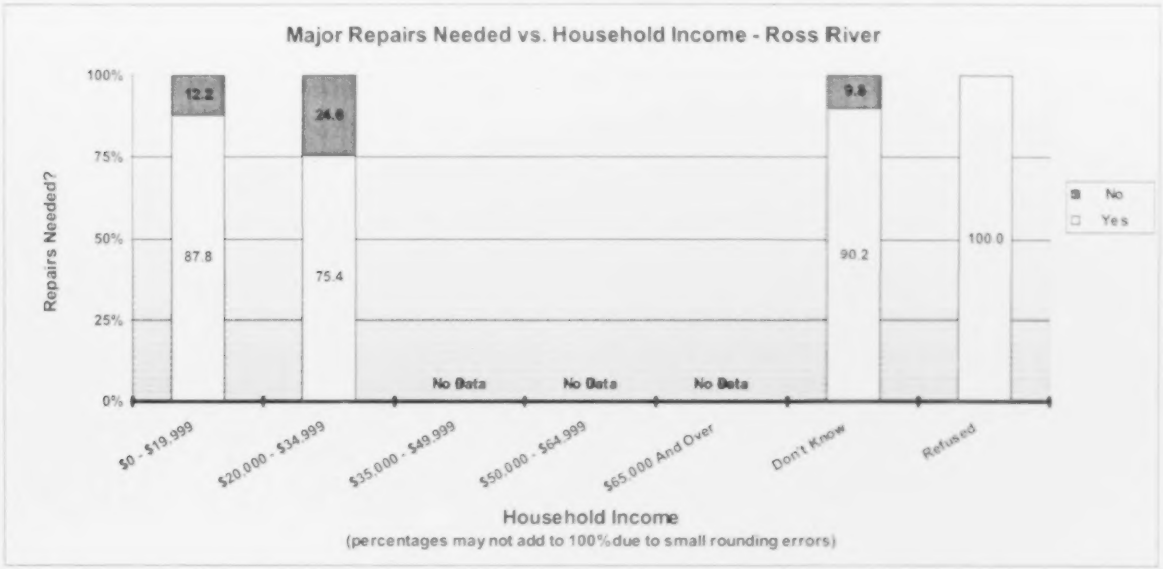


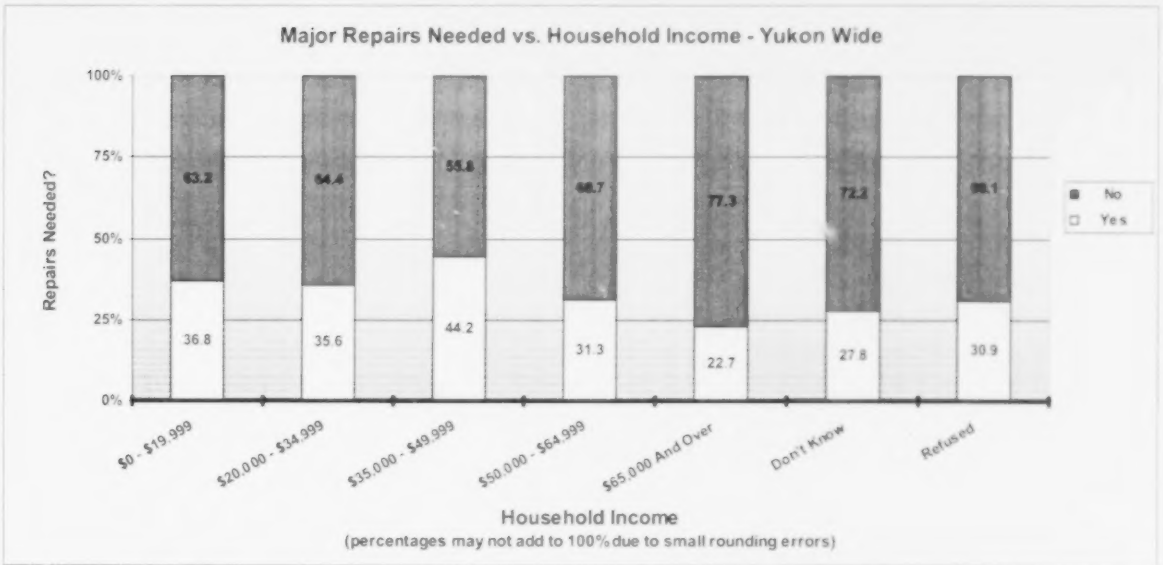
HIGHLIGHTS

- Households in Ross River that require major repairs need a greater variety of repairs than do households in Yukon that need major repairs.
- "Other" refers to major repairs not included in another category.

1.2.2 MAJOR REPAIR NEEDED VERSUS HOUSEHOLD INCOME

These bar charts compare household income with the need for major repairs on the household's dwelling.





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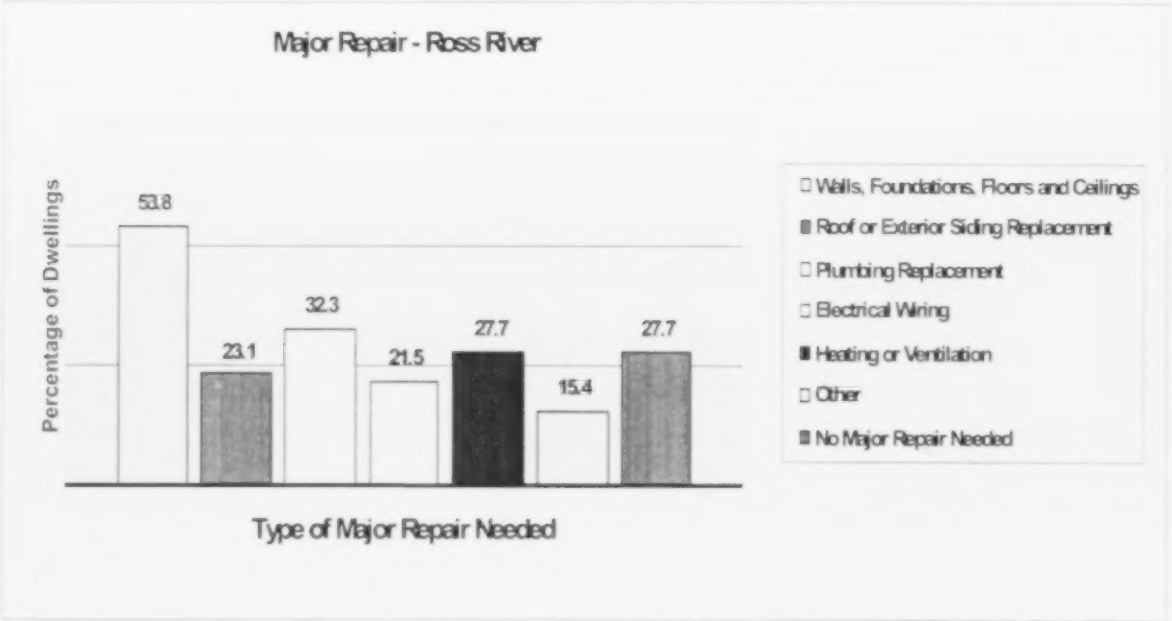
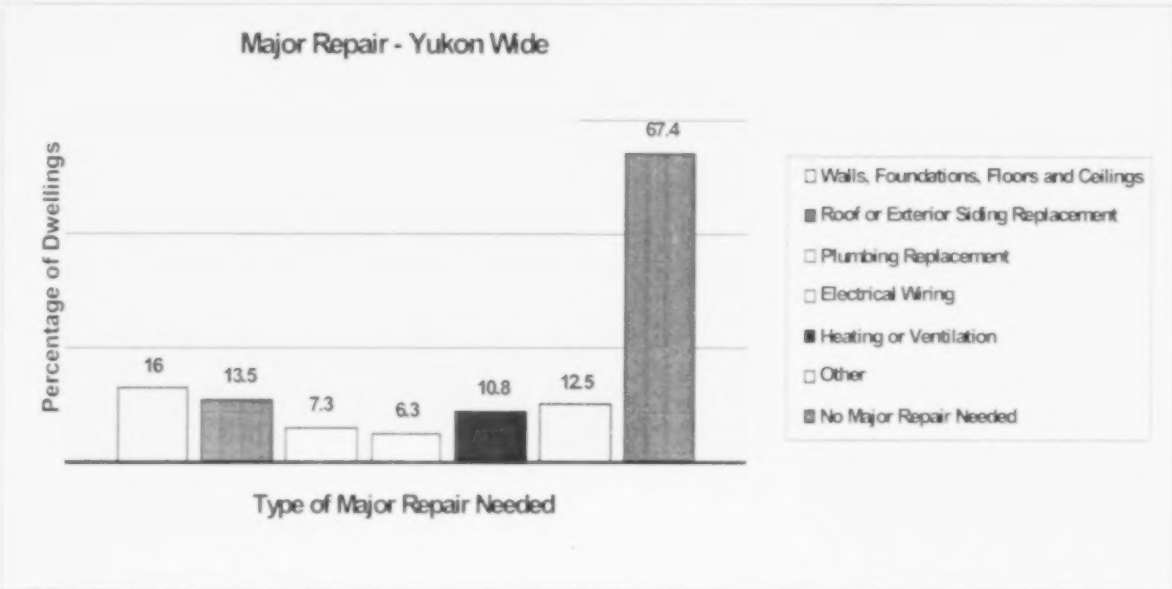
1.2.3 TYPE OF MAJOR REPAIR NEEDED

The types of repairs needed are shown below. Respondents may have provided more than one response.



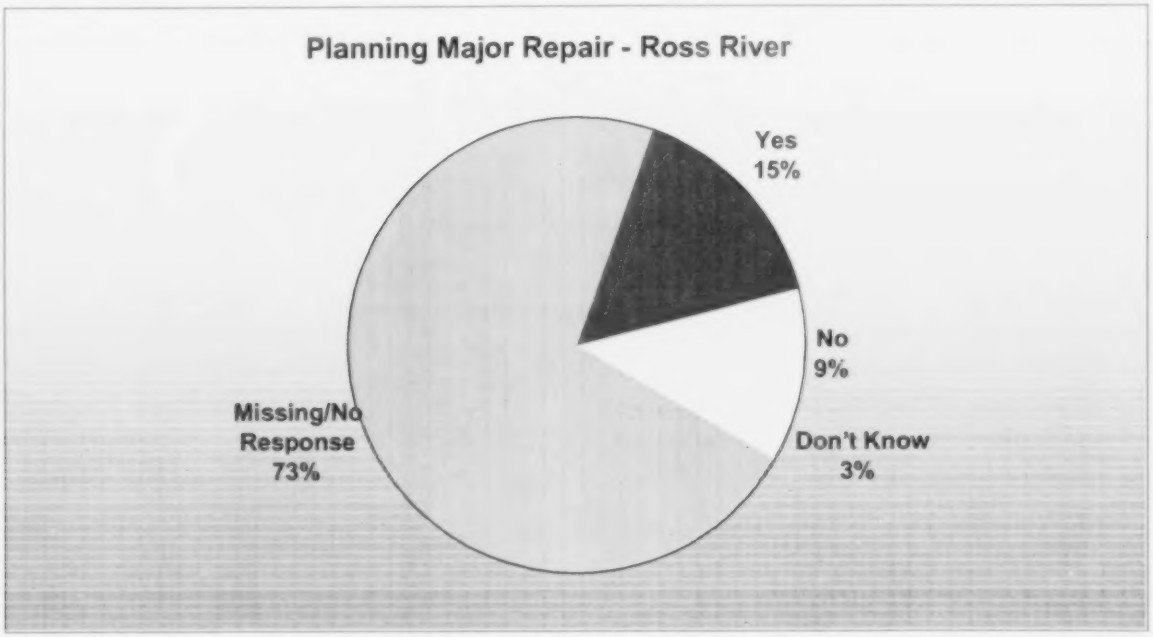


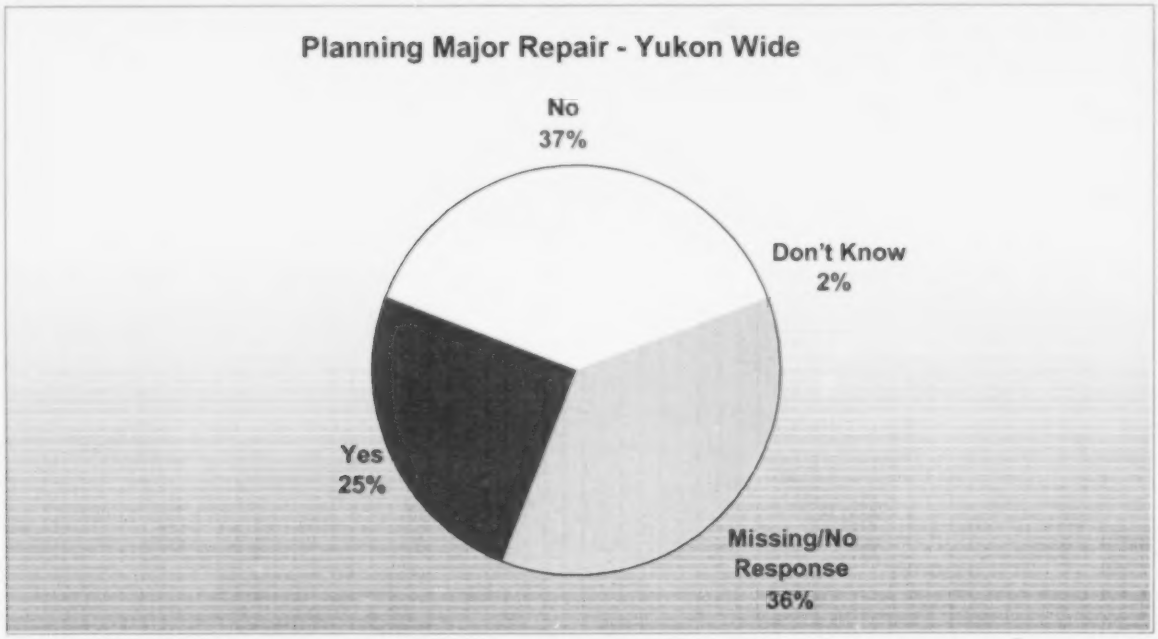
HIGHLIGHTS

- Households in Ross River that require major repairs need a greater variety of repairs than do households in Yukon that need major repairs.
- "Other" refers to major repairs not included in another category.

1.2.4 PERCENTAGE OF HOUSEHOLDS THAT OWN THEIR DWELLINGS PLANNING MAJOR REPAIR

These pie charts show the percentage of households planning major repairs.



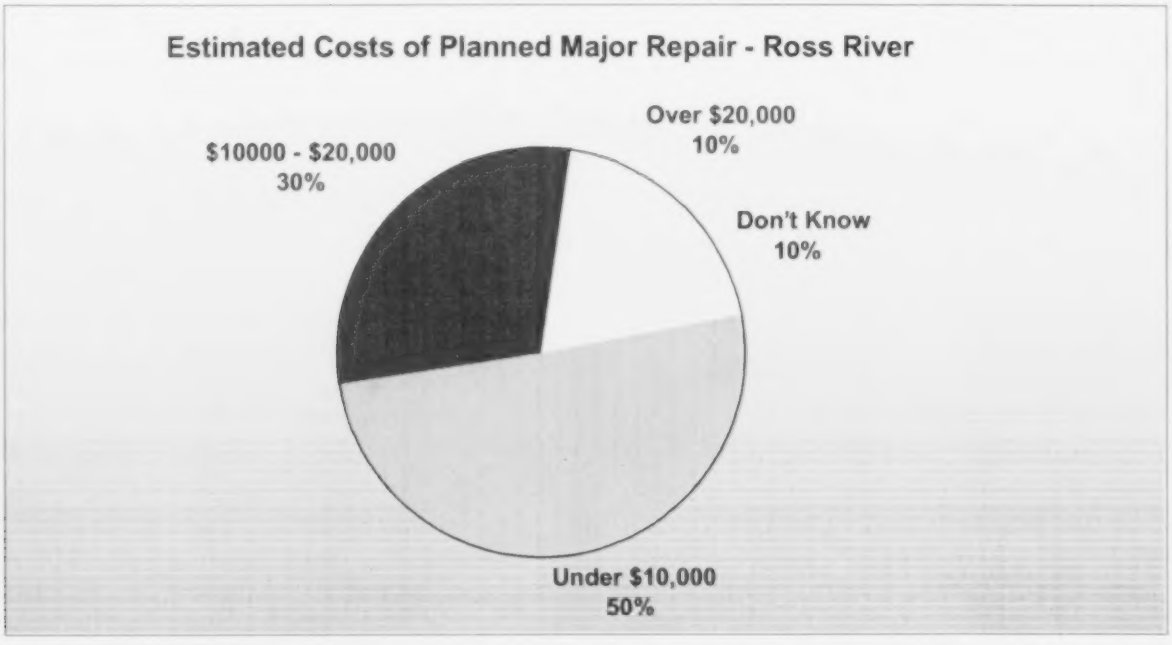


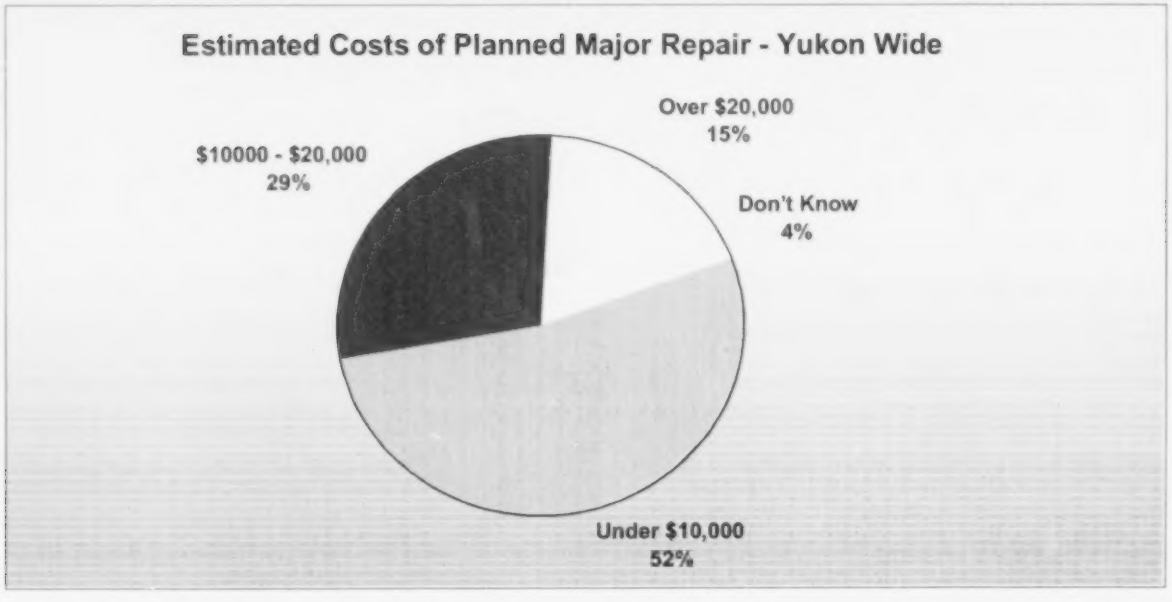
HIGHLIGHTS

- Despite the fact that in Ross River, the need for major repair is significantly higher than in the whole of the Yukon, only 15 percent of respondents in Ross River indicate they are planning major repairs. This compares with 25 percent of Yukon households that are planning major repairs.

1.2.5 ESTIMATED COST OF PLANNED MAJOR REPAIR

The following pie charts summarize the estimated costs of major repairs planned by owner households who plan to make major repairs to their homes in the next two years:



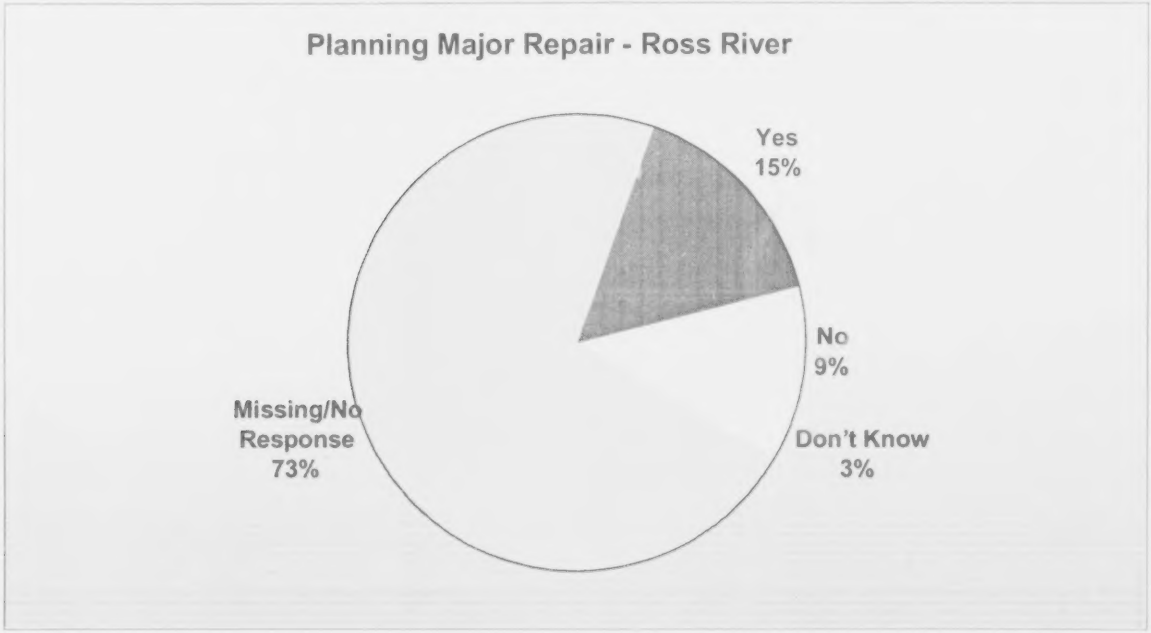


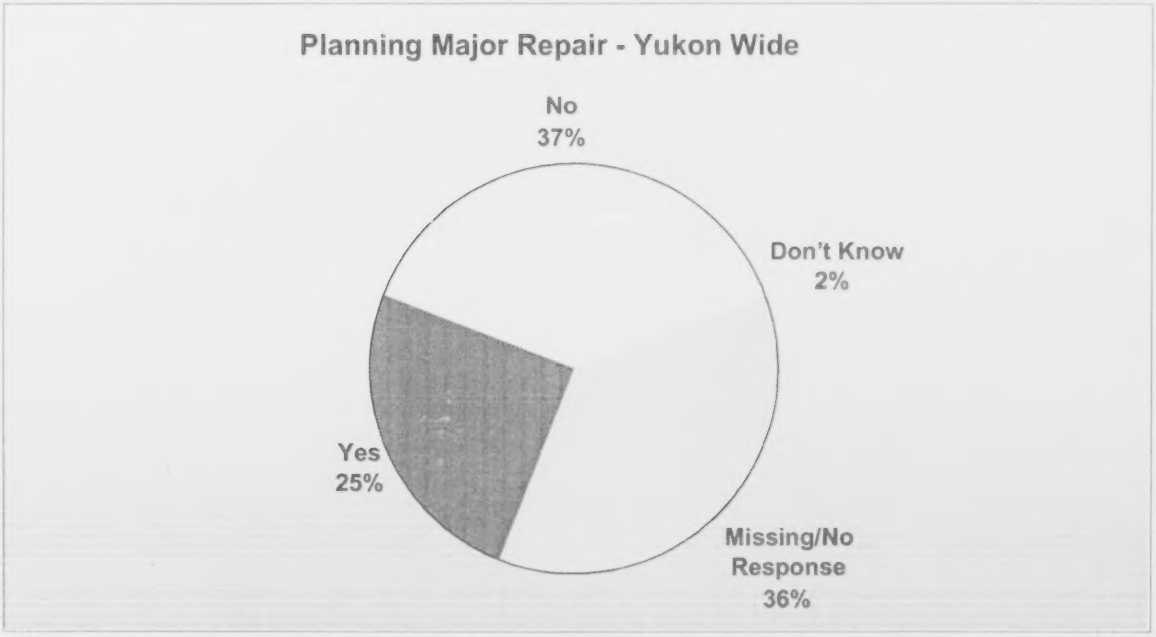
HIGHLIGHTS

- Ross River results are similar to Yukon wide results.
- 80 percent of Ross River owner households planning to do major repairs indicated their major repairs would cost less than $20,000.
- 50 percent of this same group estimated their major repairs would cost less than $10,000.

1.2.4 PERCENTAGE OF HOUSEHOLDS THAT OWN THEIR DWELLINGS PLANNING MAJOR REPAIR

These pie charts show the percentage of households planning major repairs.





HIGHLIGHTS

- Despite the fact that in Ross River, the need for major repair is significantly higher than in the whole of the Yukon, only 15 percent of respondents in Ross River indicate they are planning major repairs. This compares with 25 percent of Yukon households that are planning major repairs.

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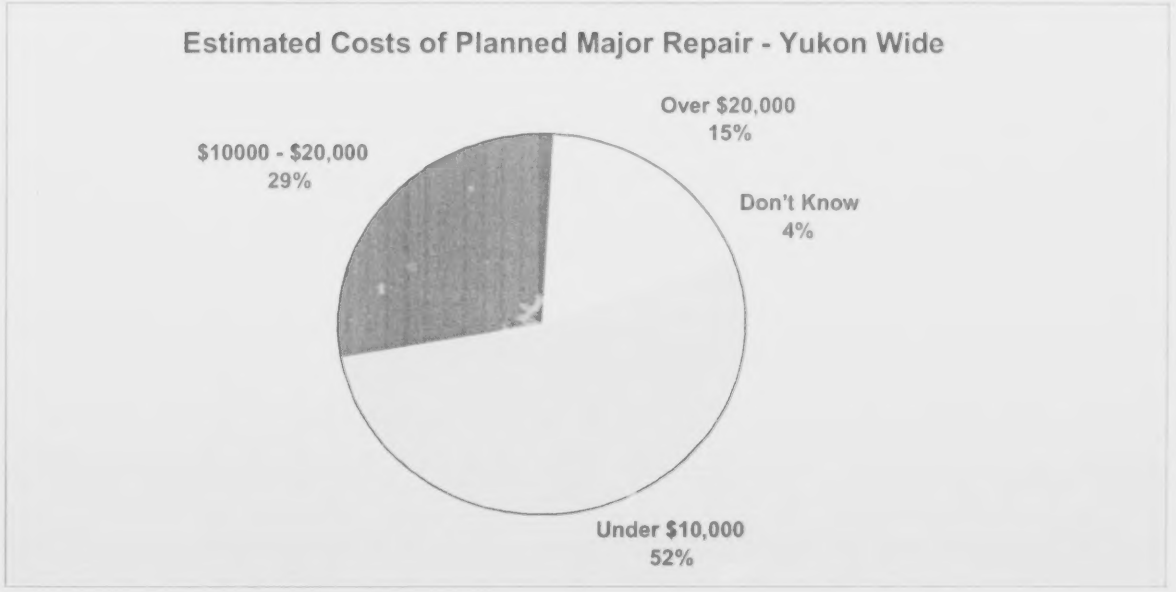
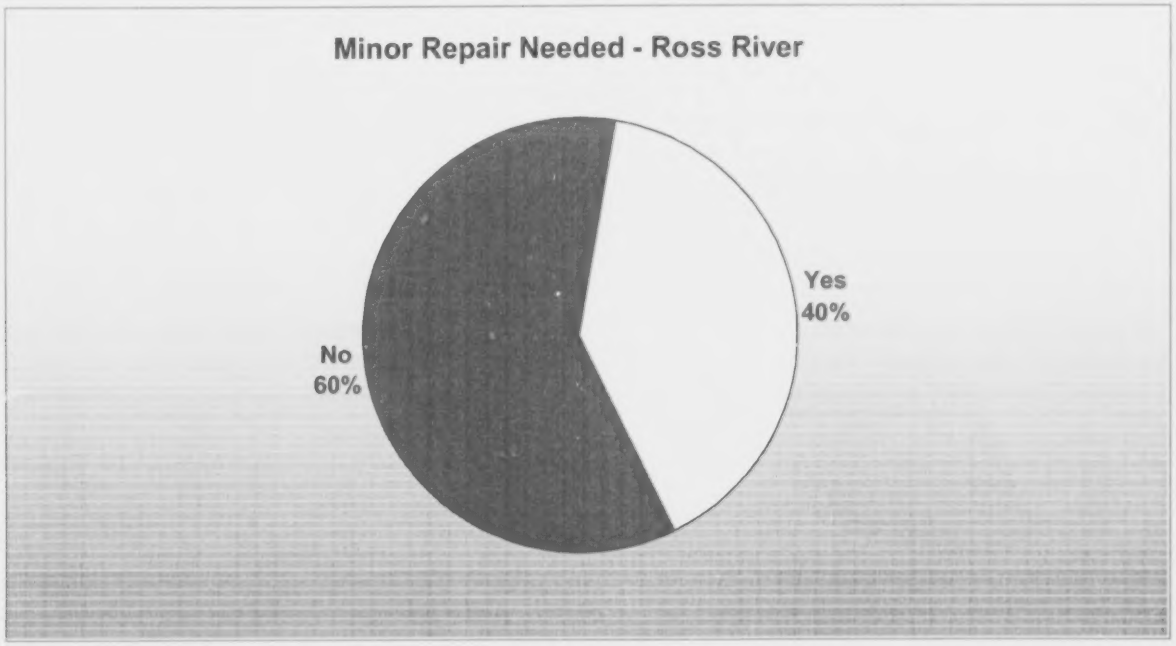


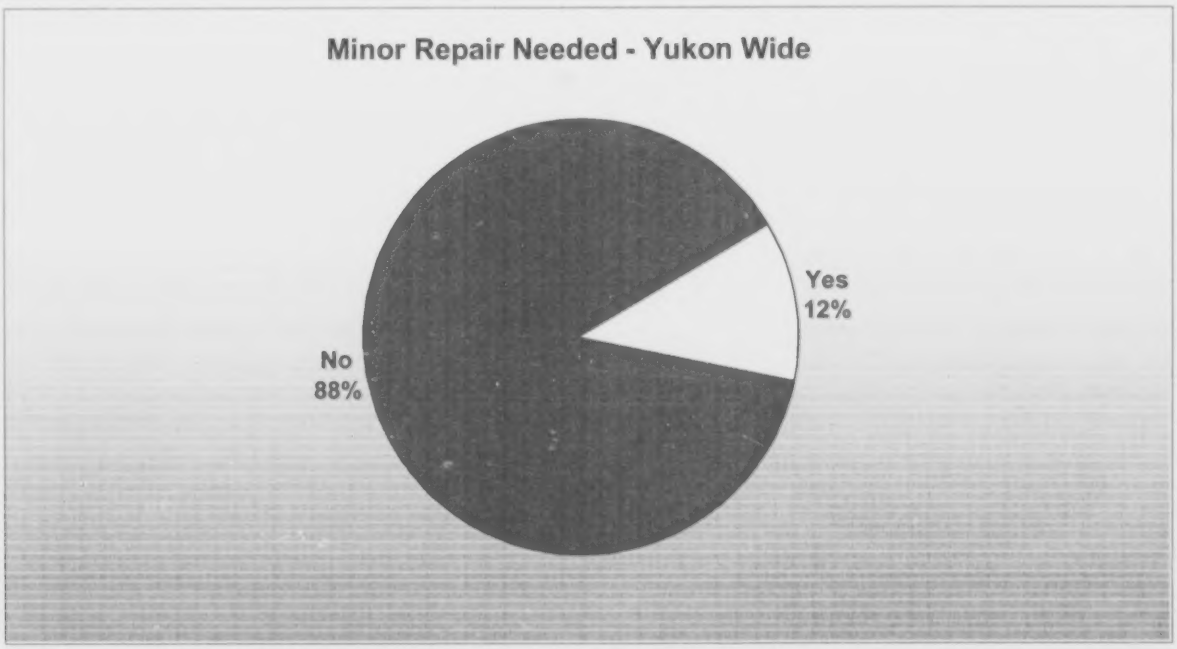
HIGHLIGHTS

- Ross River results are similar to Yukon wide results.
- 80 percent of Ross River owner households planning to do major repairs indicated their major repairs would cost less than $20,000.
- 50 percent of this same group estimated their major repairs would cost less than $10,000.

1.2.6 PERCENTAGE OF DWELLINGS NEEDING MINOR REPAIR

The following pie charts show the percentage of households that indicated their dwellings needed minor repairs:



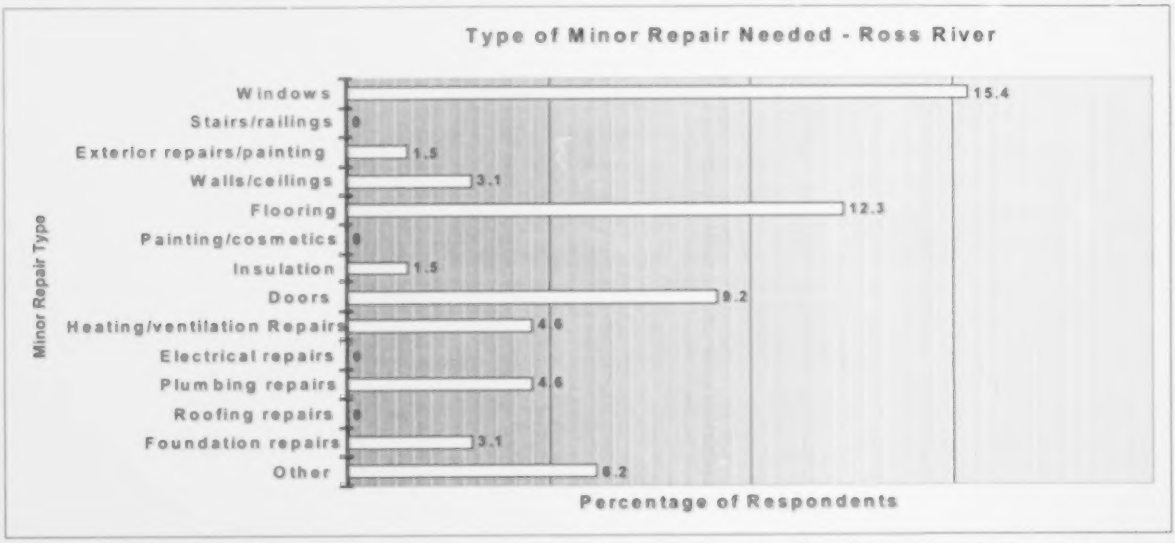


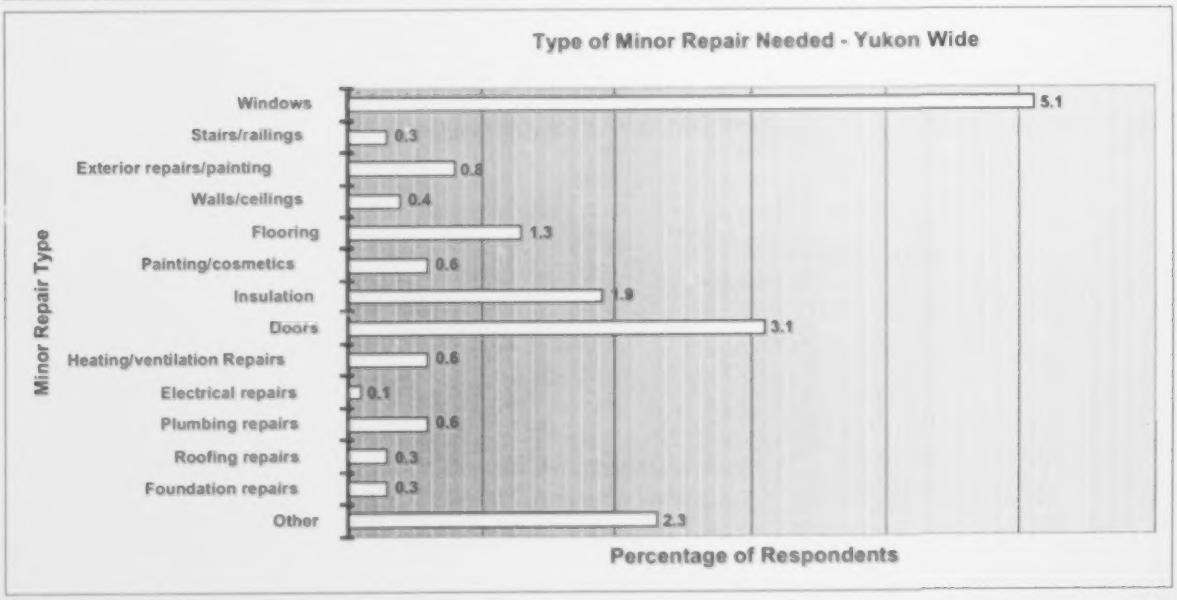
HIGHLIGHTS

- 40 percent of Ross River dwellings require minor repairs. This is more than 3 times the corresponding Yukon wide average of 12 percent.

1.2.7 TYPE OF MINOR REPAIR NEEDED

The following bar charts show the percentage of households that indicated their dwellings needed repairs other than major repairs. Note, respondents may have indicated the need for more than one type of repair.



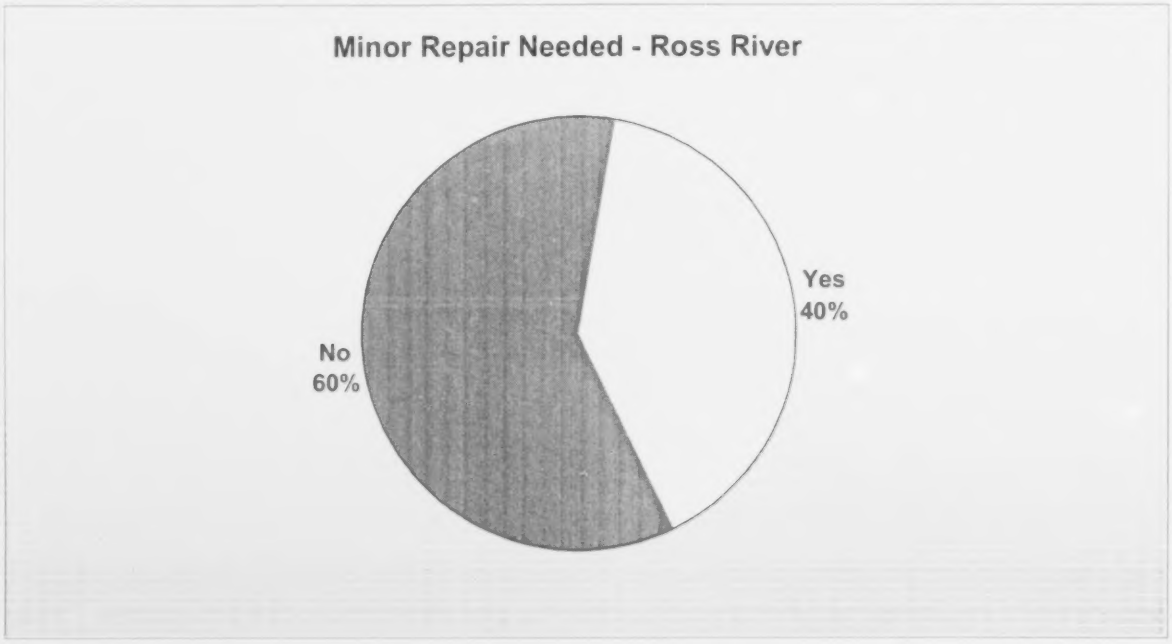


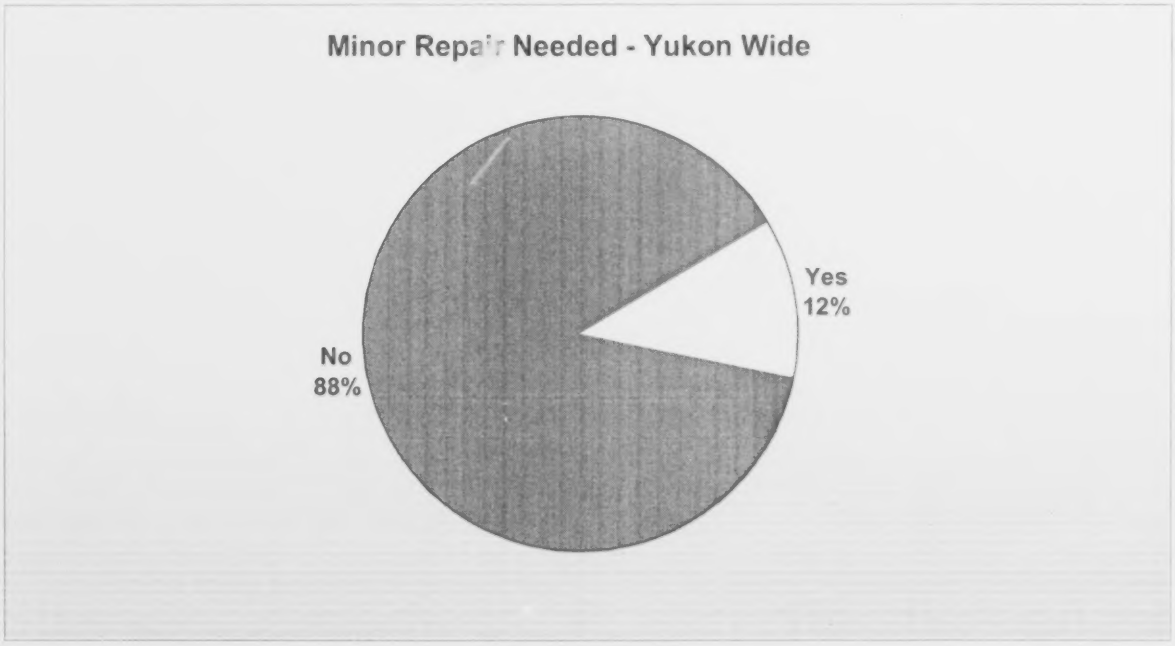
HIGHLIGHTS

- Of those households in Ross River that require minor repairs, the most common types of repair needed are for windows, flooring, and doors.
- The percentage of homes in Ross River requiring minor repairs is much greater that of the Yukon in general.
- "Other" refers to minor repairs not included in another category.

1.2.6 PERCENTAGE OF DWELLINGS NEEDING MINOR REPAIR

The following pie charts show the percentage of households that indicated their dwellings needed minor repairs:





HIGHLIGHTS

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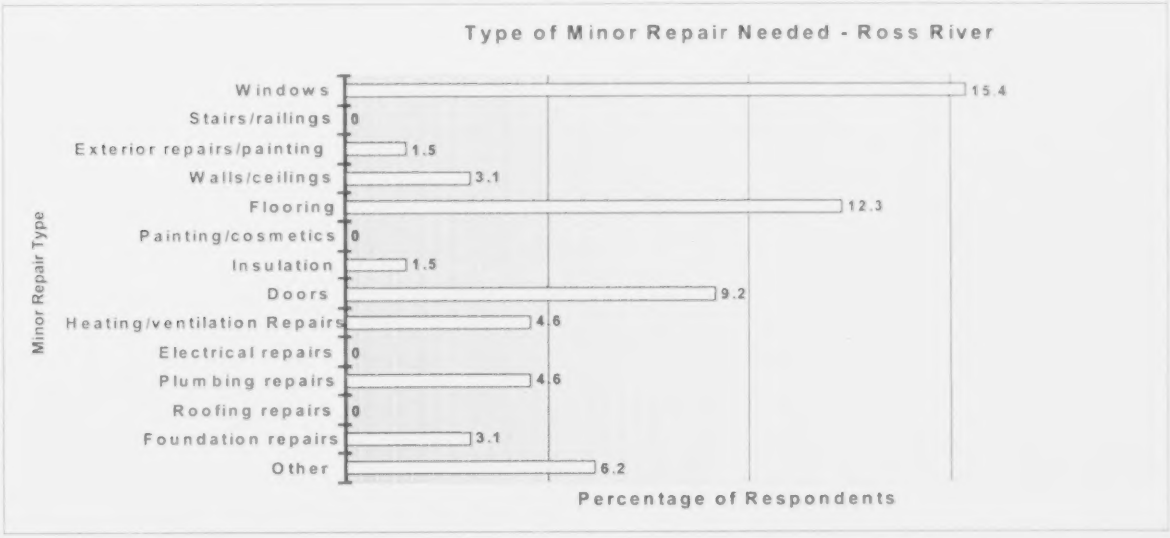
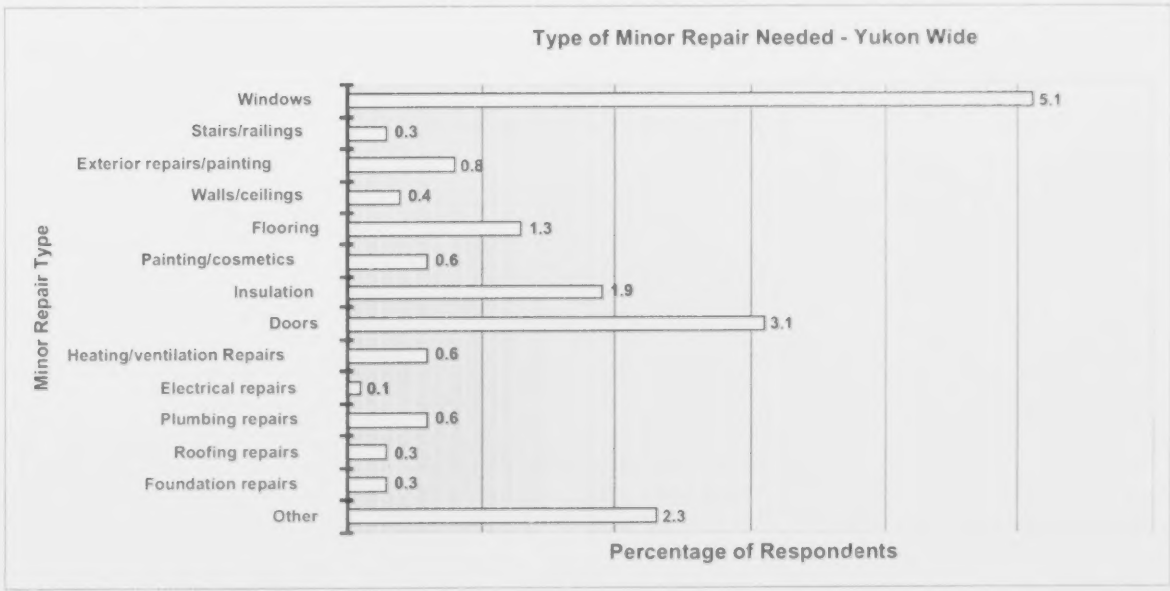




HIGHLIGHTS

- Of those households in Ross River that require minor repairs, the most common types of repair needed are for windows, flooring, and doors.
- The percentage of homes in Ross River requiring minor repairs is much greater that of the Yukon in general.
- "Other" refers to minor repairs not included in another category.

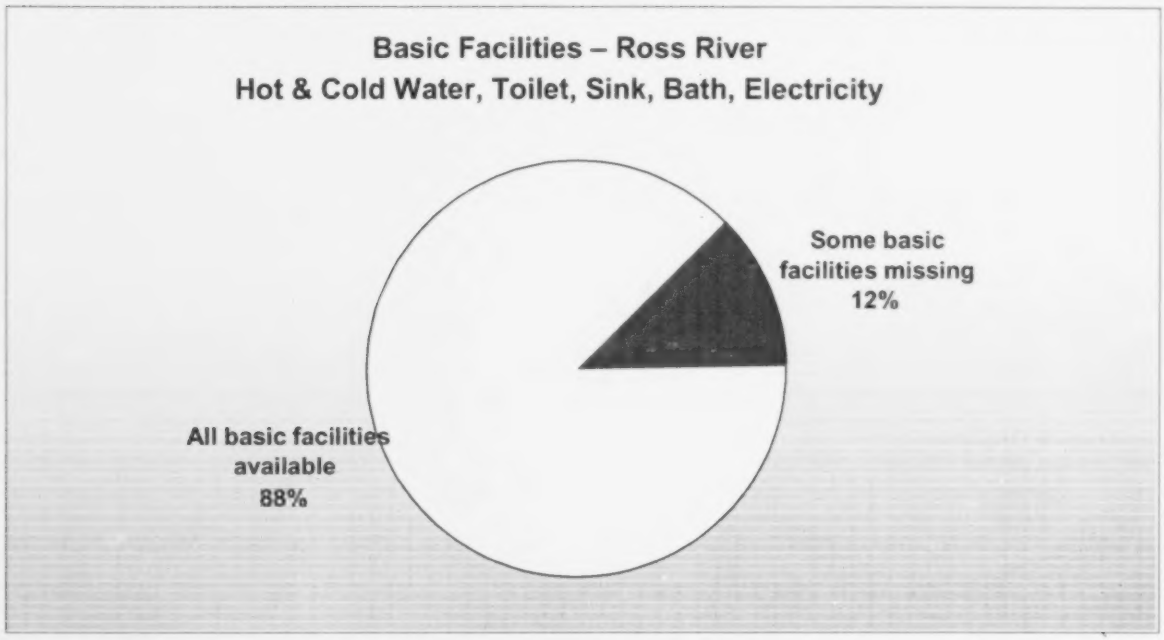
1.3 BASIC FACILITIES

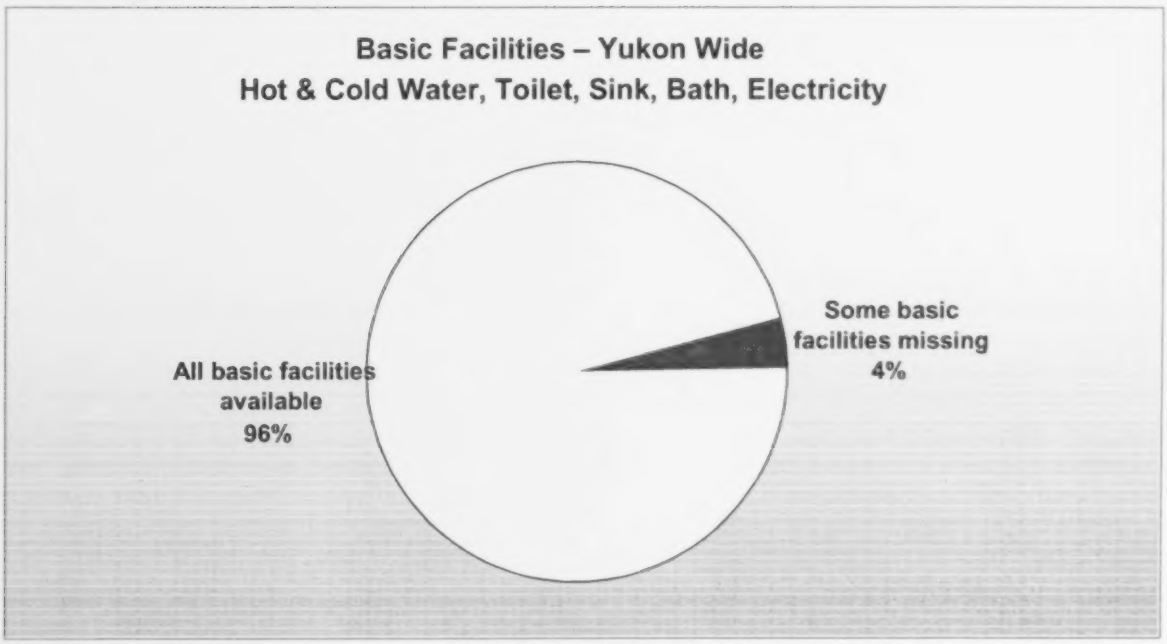
Basic facilities include hot and cold water, indoor toilet, sink, bath, and electricity. The next sub-theme shows the percentage of households that have basic facilities:

⇒ **BASIC FACILITIES.**

1.3.1 BASIC FACILITIES

The following pie charts show the percentage of households that have basic facilities.


Basic Facilities – Ross River
Hot & Cold Water, Toilet, Sink, Bath, Electricity
Some basic facilities missing 12%
All basic facilities available 88%


Basic Facilities – Yukon Wide
Hot & Cold Water, Toilet, Sink, Bath, Electricity
Some basic facilities missing 4%
All basic facilities available 96%

HIGHLIGHTS

- 12 percent of households surveyed in Ross River lack at least one basic facility. This is three times the Yukon average of 4 percent.

1.4 HEALTH AND SAFETY DEFICIENCIES

The next six sub-themes show the percentage of households that have health and safety deficiencies including lack of smoke alarms, ventilation, clean water, and safe sewage:

⇒ **HEALTH AND SAFETY DEFICIENCIES**,

⇒ **SMOKE ALARMS**,

⇒ **MECHANICAL VENTILATION**,

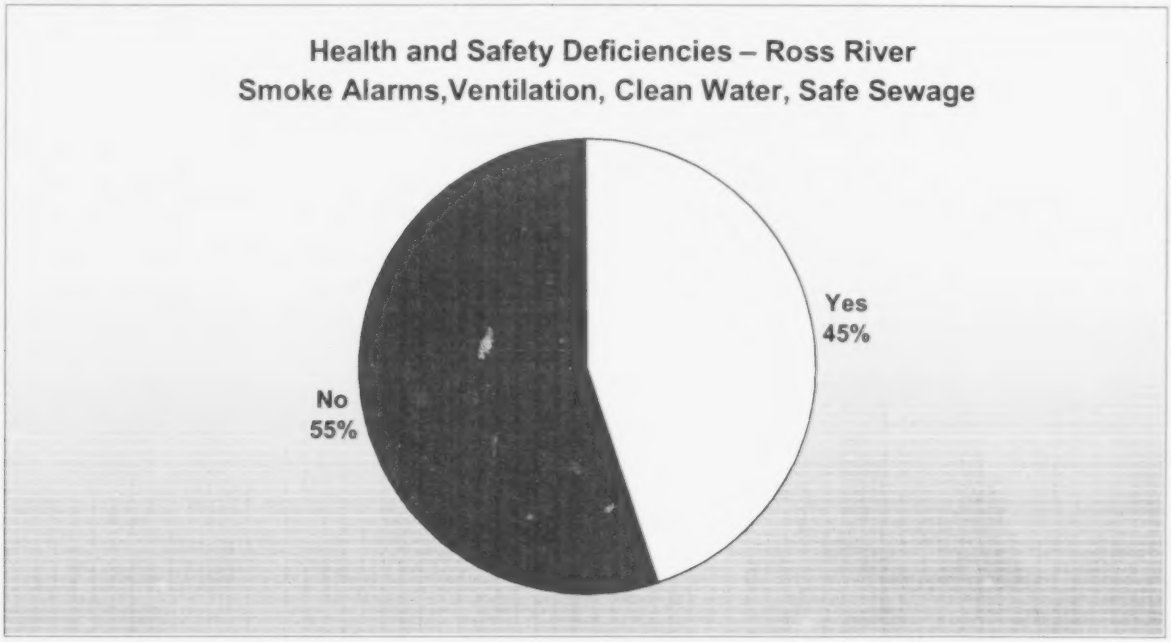
⇒ **KITCHEN/BATHROOM EXHAUST**,

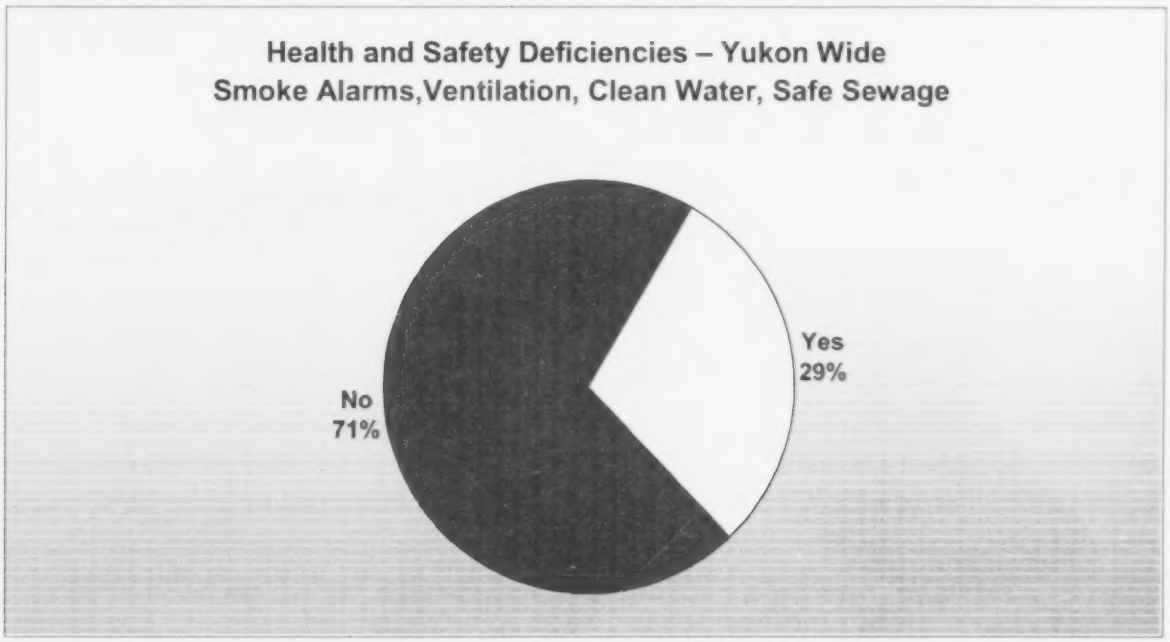
⇒ **WATER SUPPLY**,

⇒ **SEWAGE DISPOSAL**.

1.4.1 HEALTH AND SAFETY DEFICIENCIES

The following pie charts show the percentage of households that have health and safety deficiencies:



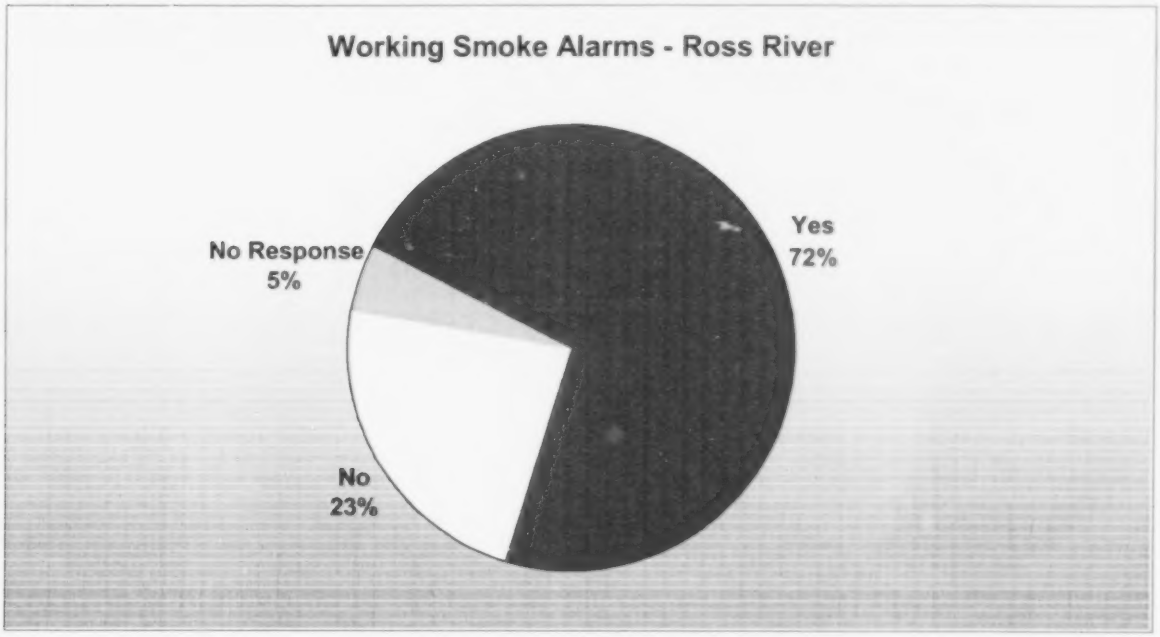


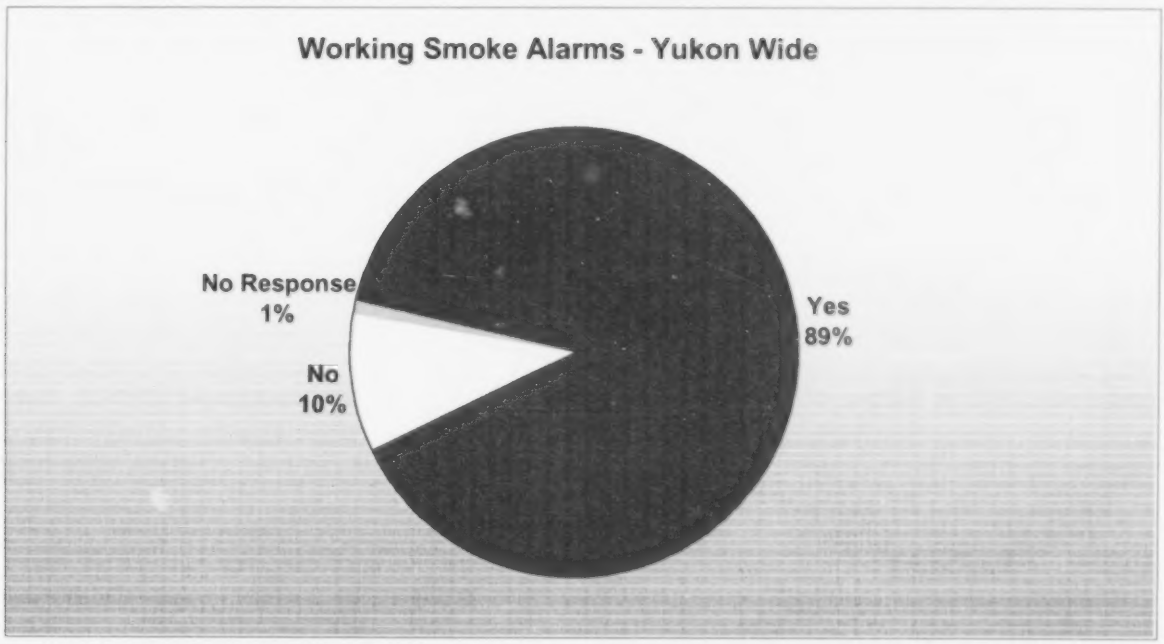
HIGHLIGHTS

- 45 percent of all Ross River dwellings lack at least one health and safety feature.
- Within the Yukon as a whole, 29 percent of dwellings are deficient in at least one feature.

1.4.2 SMOKE ALARMS

The following pie charts show the percentage of households that have working smoke alarms:



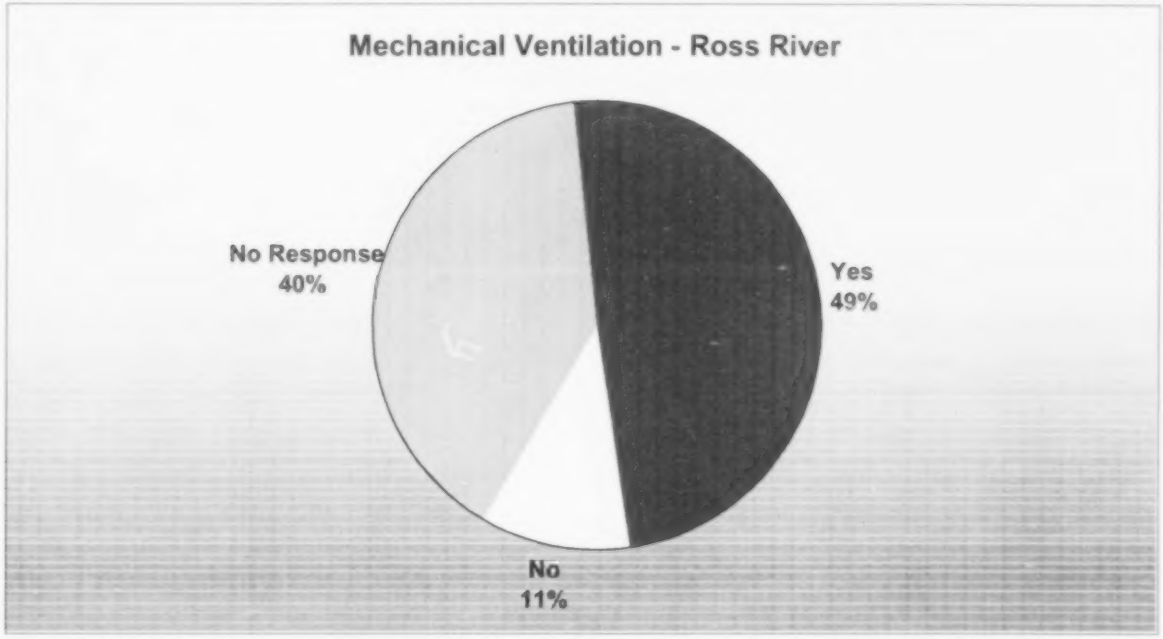


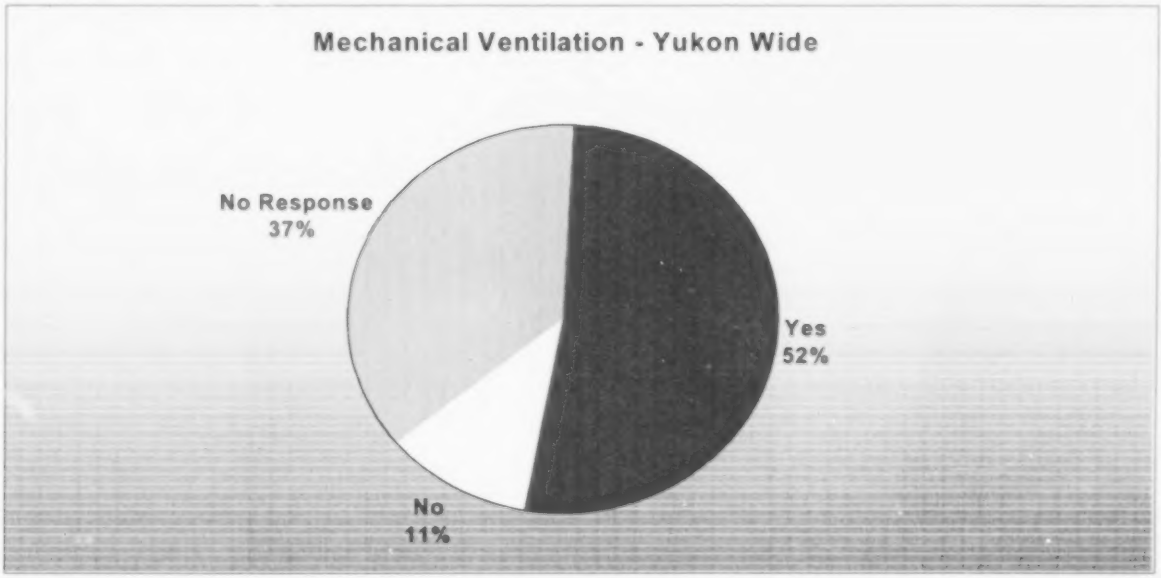
HIGHLIGHTS

- 72 percent of Ross River households have working smoke alarms. This is less than the 89 percent of all Yukon households that have working smoke alarms.

1.4.3 MECHANICAL VENTILATION

Mechanical ventilation includes heat recovery ventilators, central fans without heat recovery, and direct fresh air supplied by ducting to a furnace return air duct. The following pie charts show the percentage of households that have mechanical ventilation:



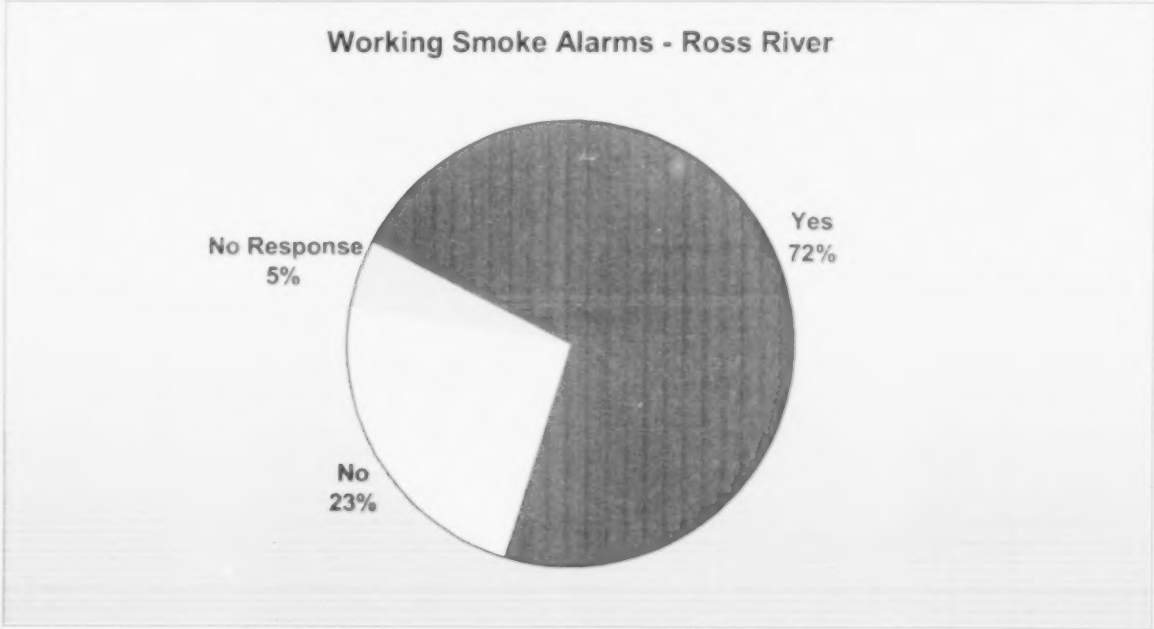


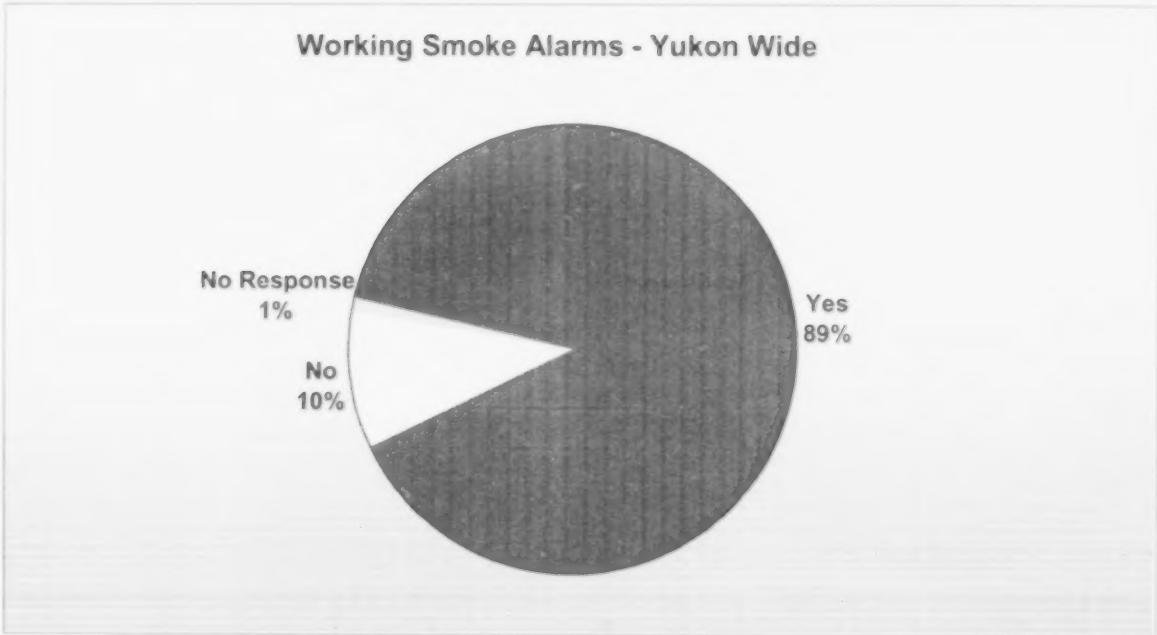
HIGHLIGHTS

- Ross River and Yukon wide results are similar.
- In each case, just over half of respondents said they had mechanical ventilation in their homes.
- The non-response is quite high: 40 percent in Ross River and 37 percent in the Yukon.

1.4.2 SMOKE ALARMS

The following pie charts show the percentage of households that have working smoke alarms:





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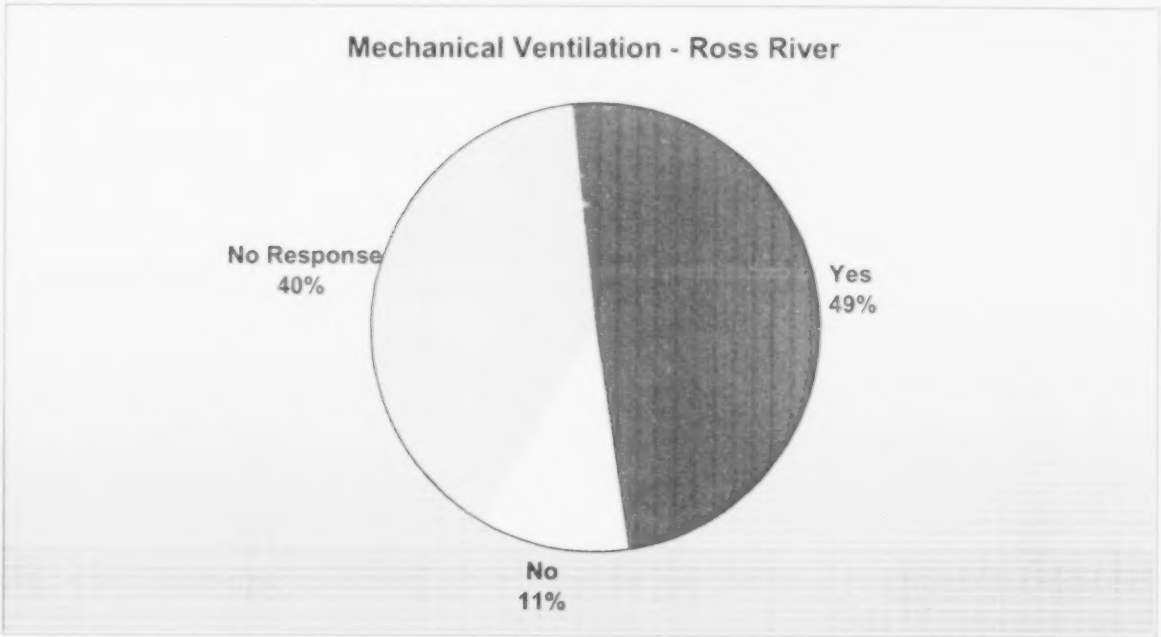

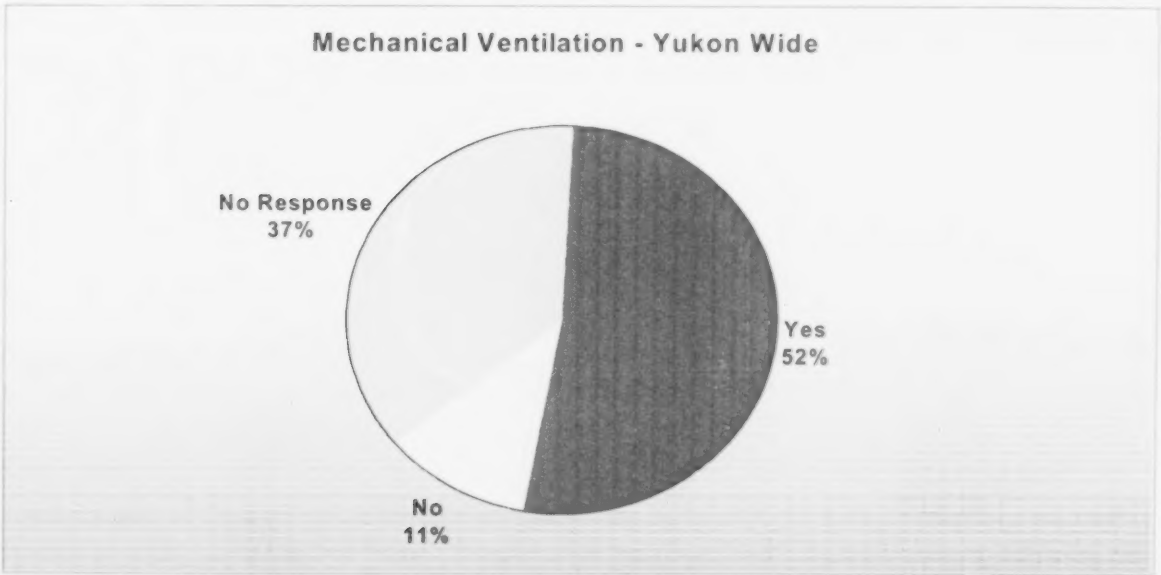

HIGHLIGHTS

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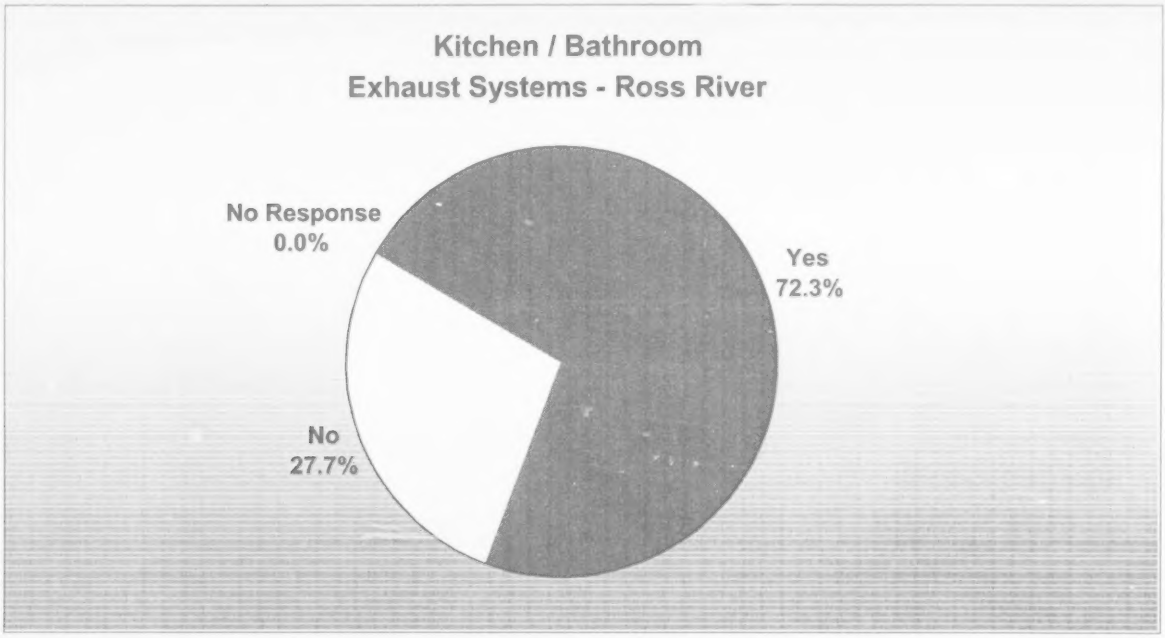
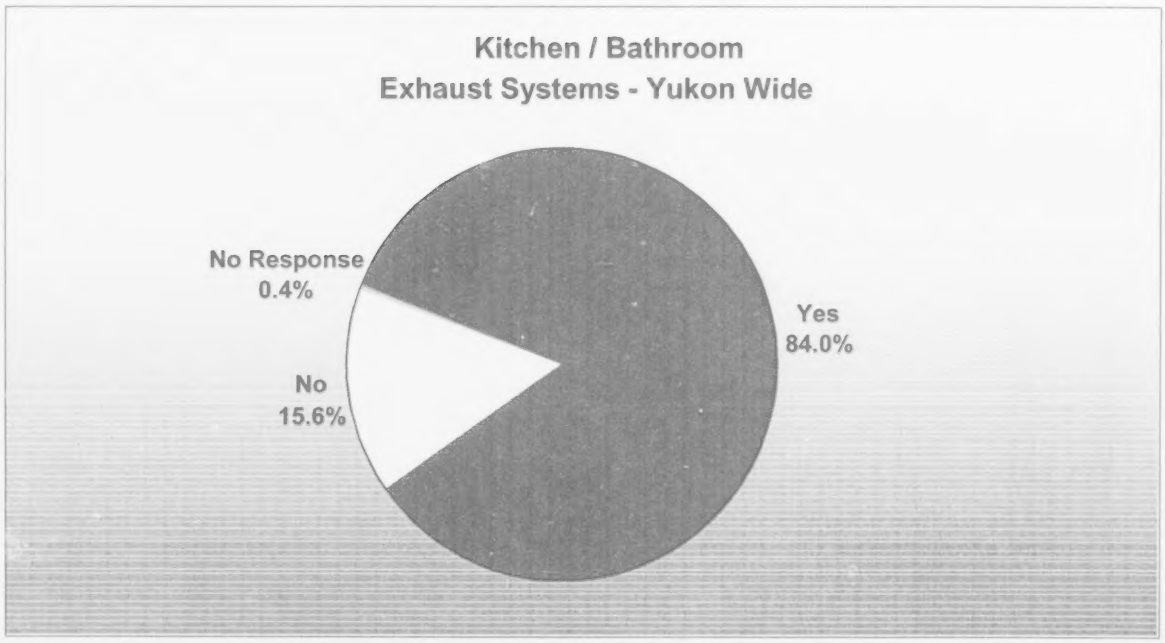
- In each case, just over half of respondents said they had mechanical ventilation in their homes.
- The non-response is quite high: 40 percent in Ross River and 37 percent in the Yukon.

1.4.4 KITCHEN/BATHROOM EXHAUST SYSTEMS

The following pie charts show the percentage of households that have kitchen/bathroom exhaust systems:



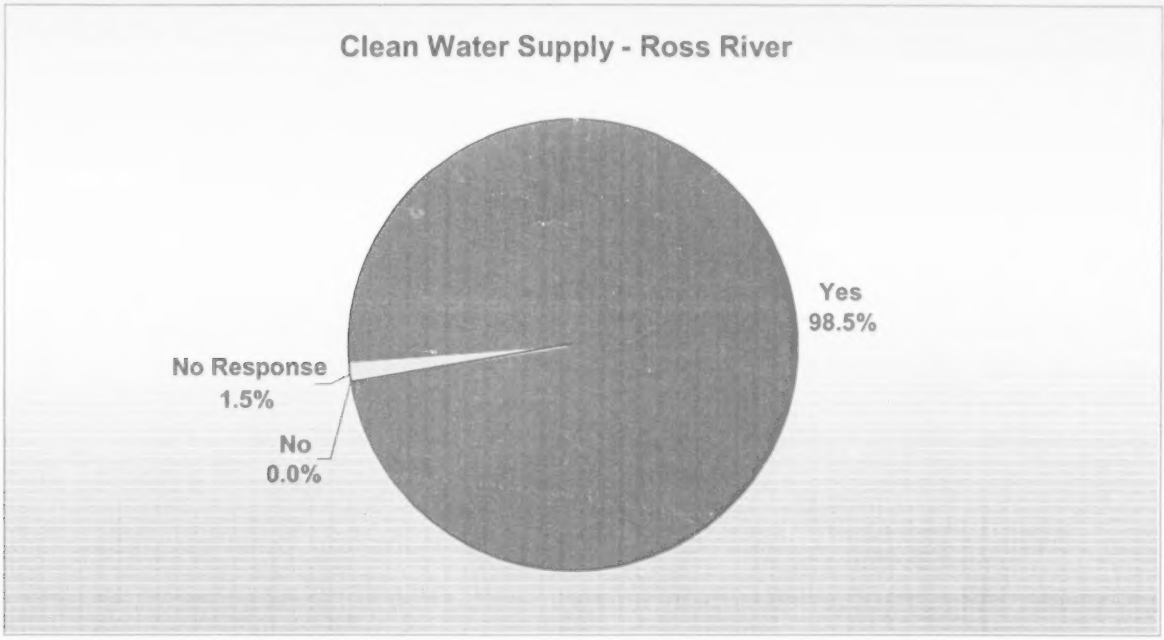


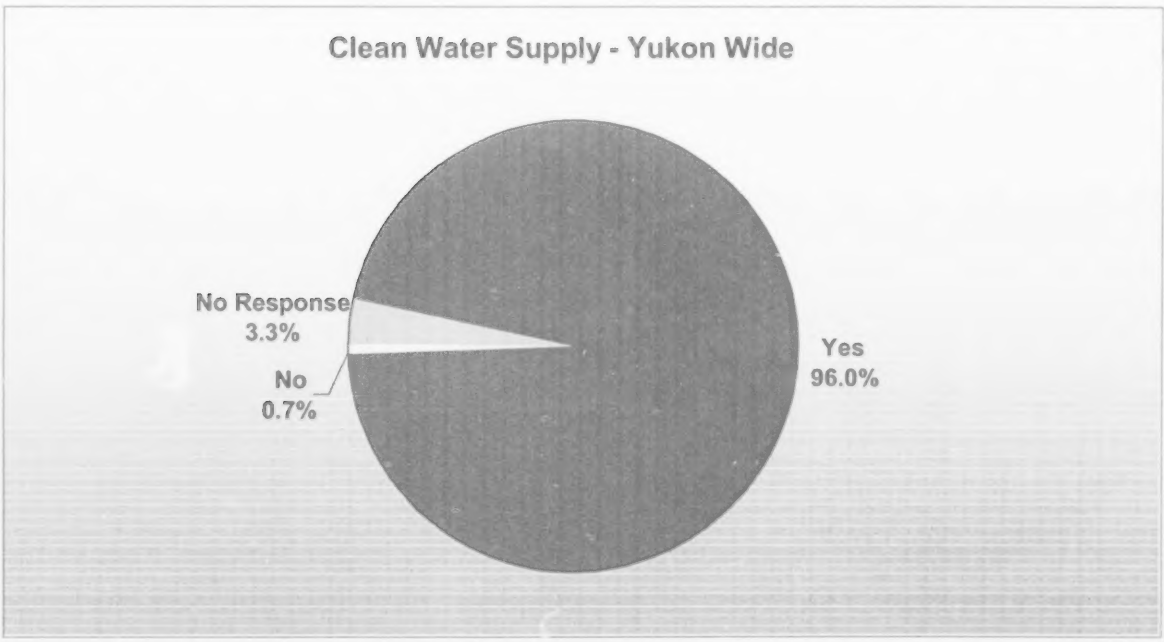
HIGHLIGHTS

- A significant portion of the dwellings in Ross River and the Yukon do not have kitchen and/or bathroom exhaust systems: 27.7 percent in Ross River and 15.6 percent Yukon wide.

1.4.5 WATER SUPPLY

The following pie charts show the percentage of households that have a clean water supply:





HIGHLIGHTS

- The majority of households in Ross River and in the Yukon have a clean water supply: 98.5 percent in Ross River and 96 percent Yukon wide.

1.4.4 KITCHEN/BATHROOM EXHAUST SYSTEMS

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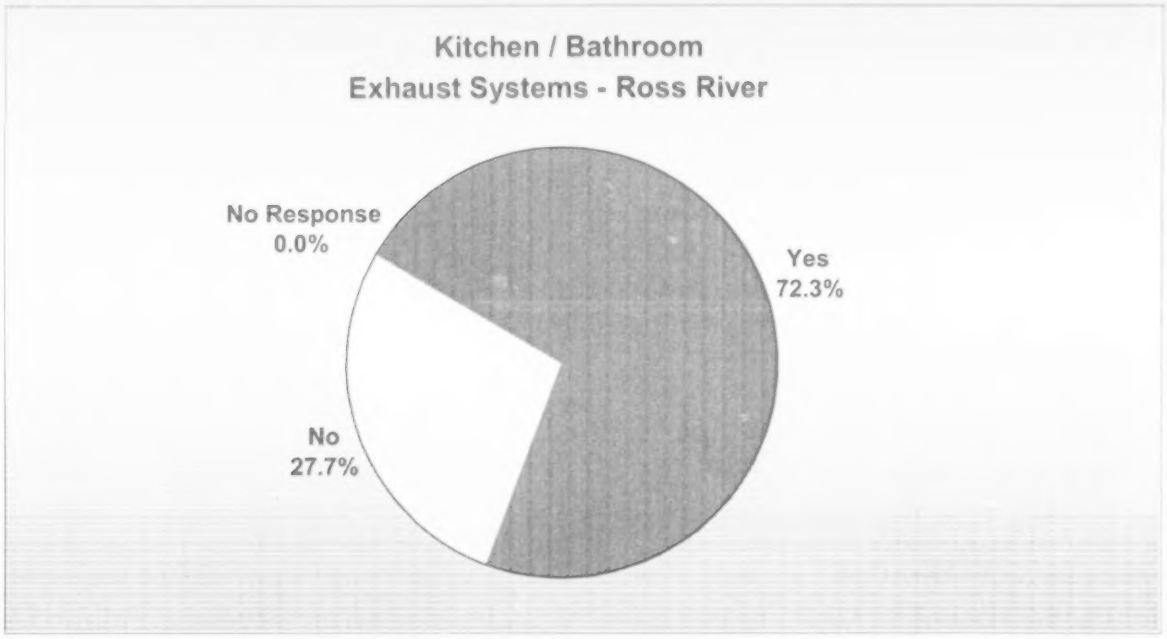

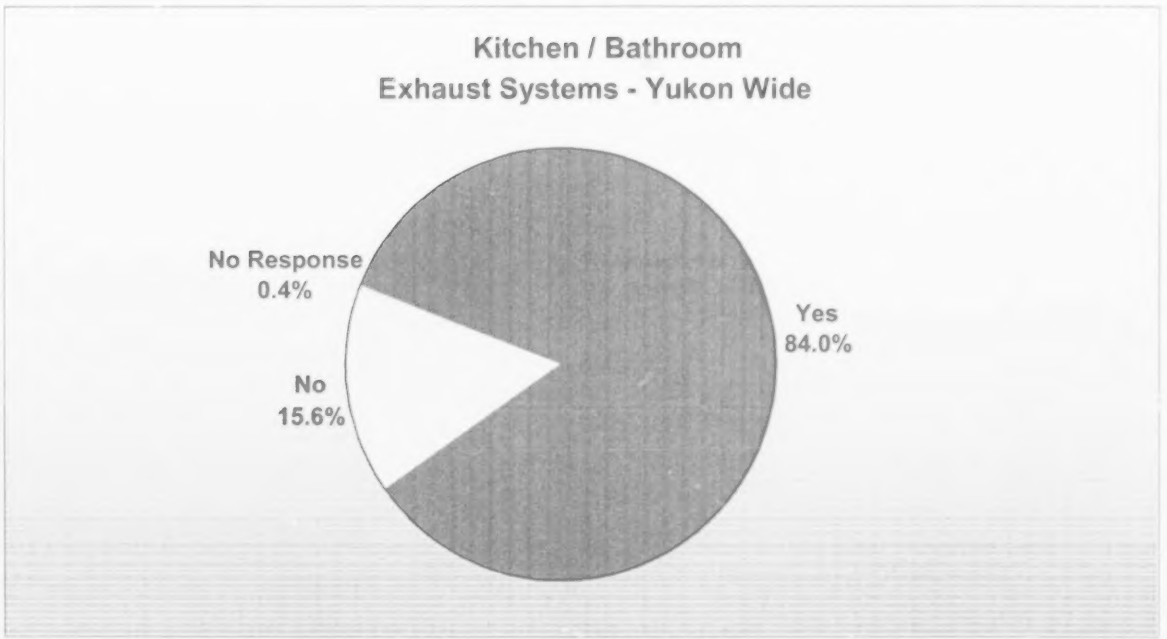

HIGHLIGHTS

- A significant portion of the dwellings in Ross River and the Yukon do not have kitchen and/or bathroom exhaust systems: 27.7 percent in Ross River and 15.6 percent Yukon wide.

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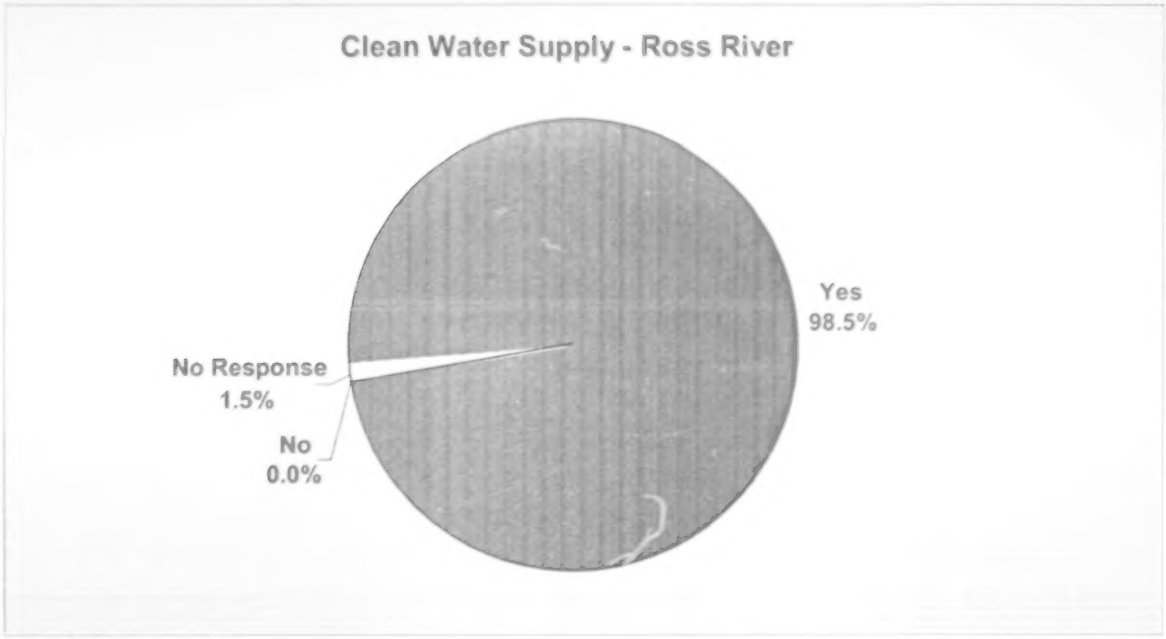
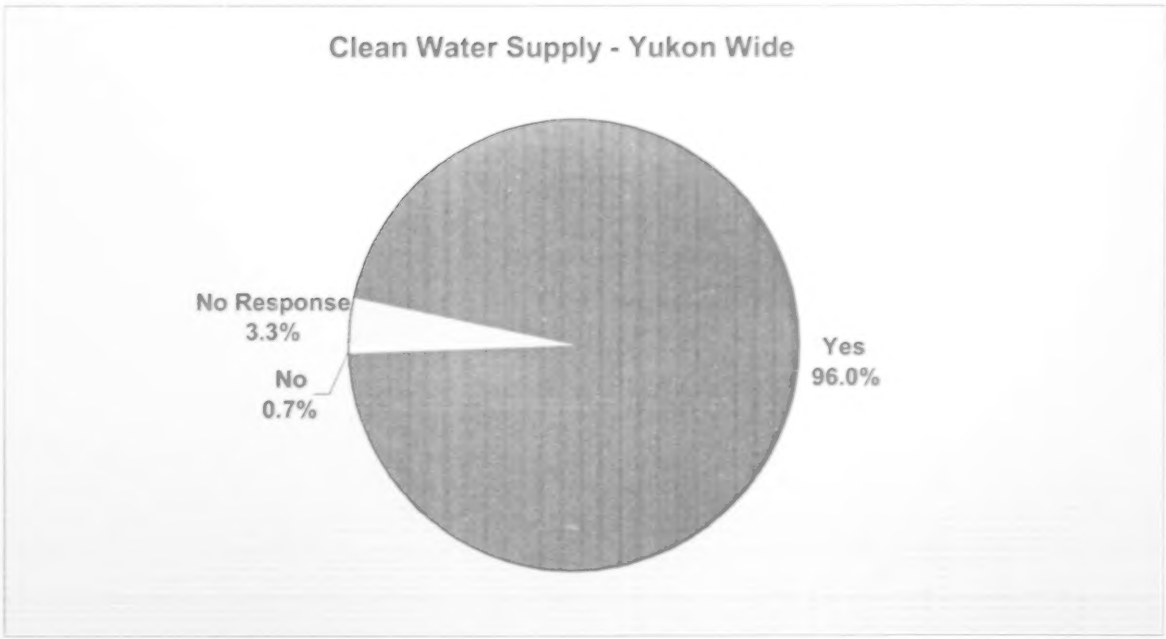
The following pie charts show the percentage of households that have a clean water supply:



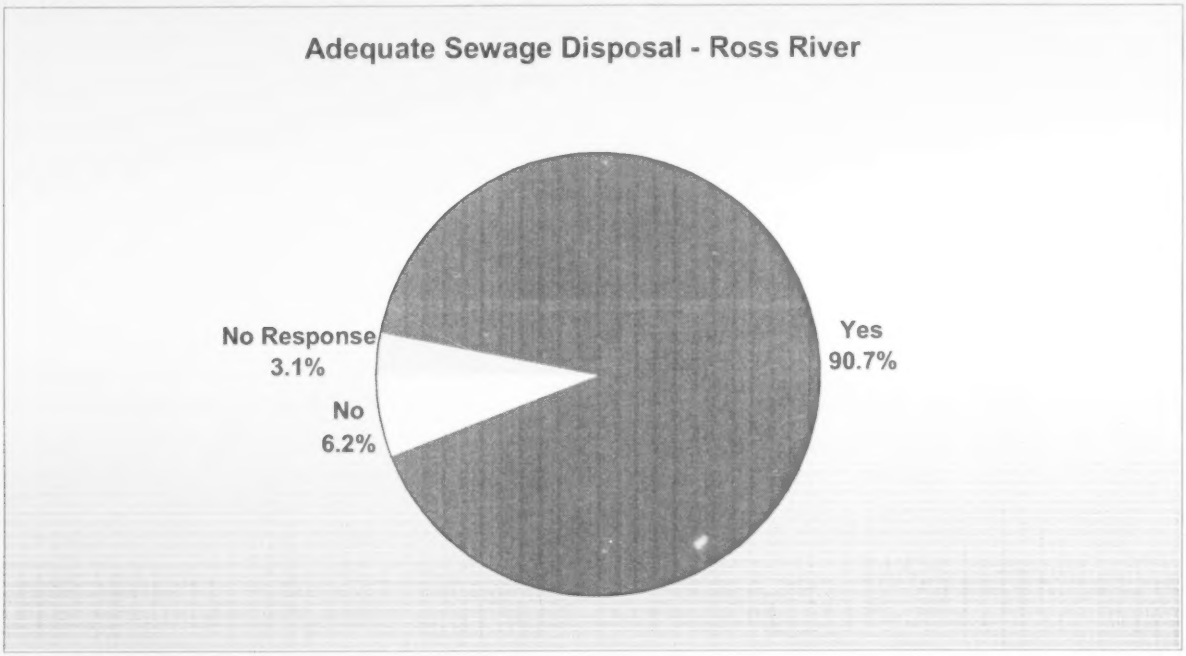


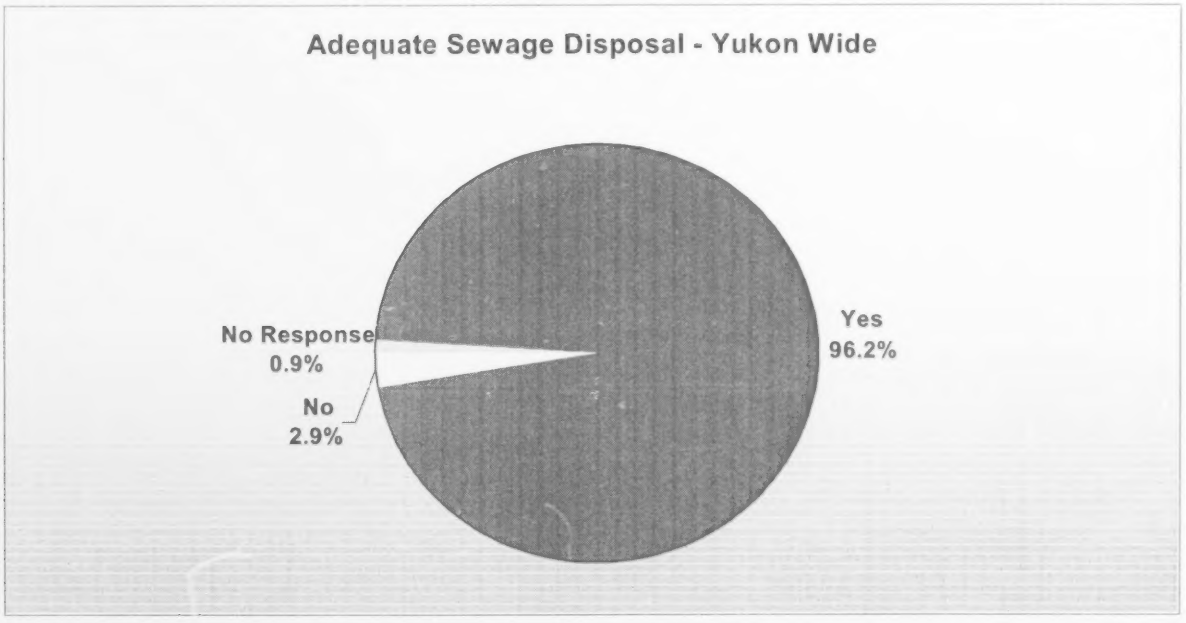
HIGHLIGHTS

- The majority of households in Ross River and in the Yukon have a clean water supply: 98.5 percent in Ross River and 96 percent Yukon wide.

1.4.6 SEWAGE DISPOSAL

The following pie charts show the percentage of households that have adequate sewage disposal:



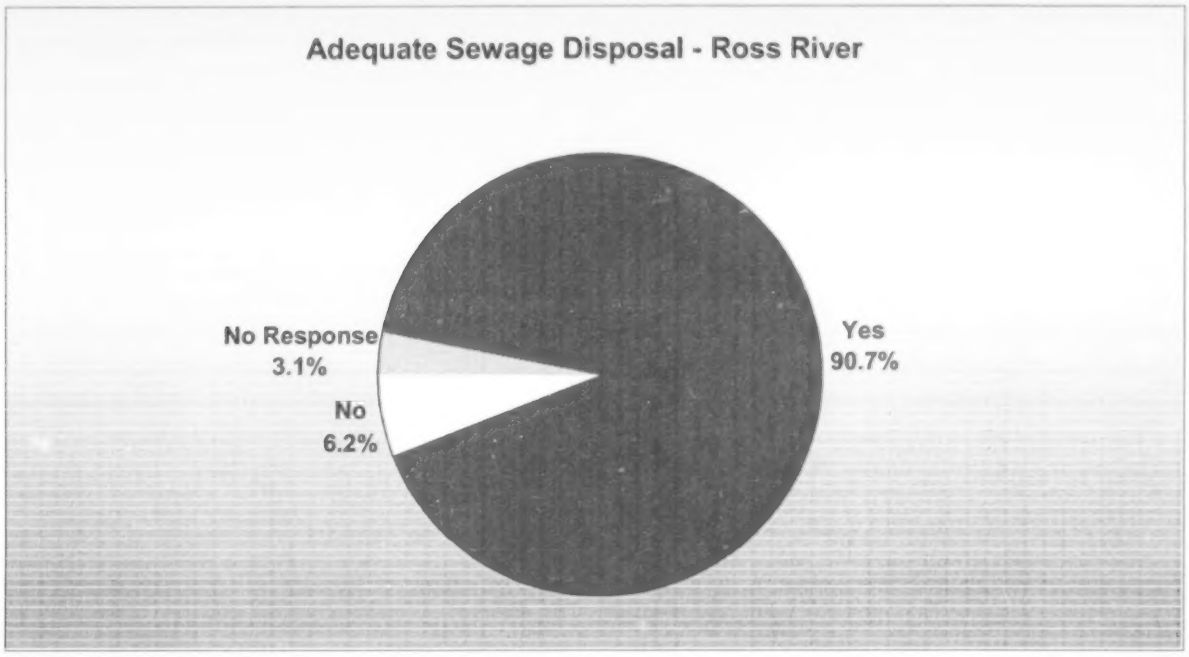


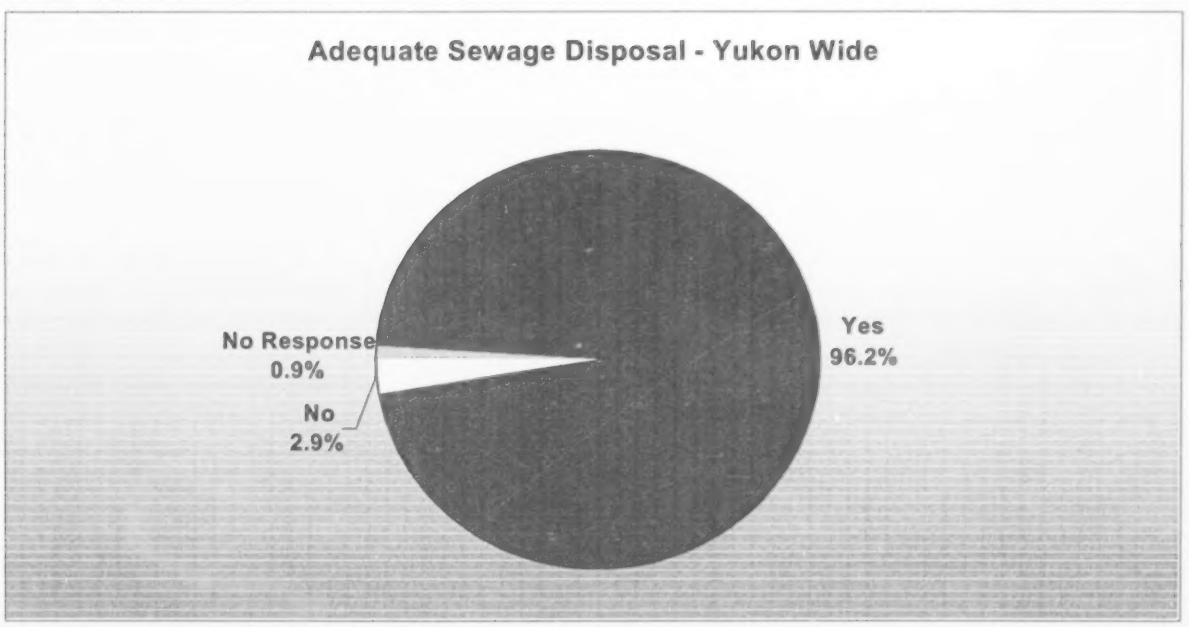
HIGHLIGHTS

- 6.2 percent of households in Ross River said they did not have adequate sewage disposal. This is more than 2 times the Yukon average.

1.4.6 SEWAGE DISPOSAL

The following pie charts show the percentage of households that have adequate sewage disposal:





HIGHLIGHTS

- 6.2 percent of households in Ross River said they did not have adequate sewage disposal. This is more than 2 times the Yukon average.

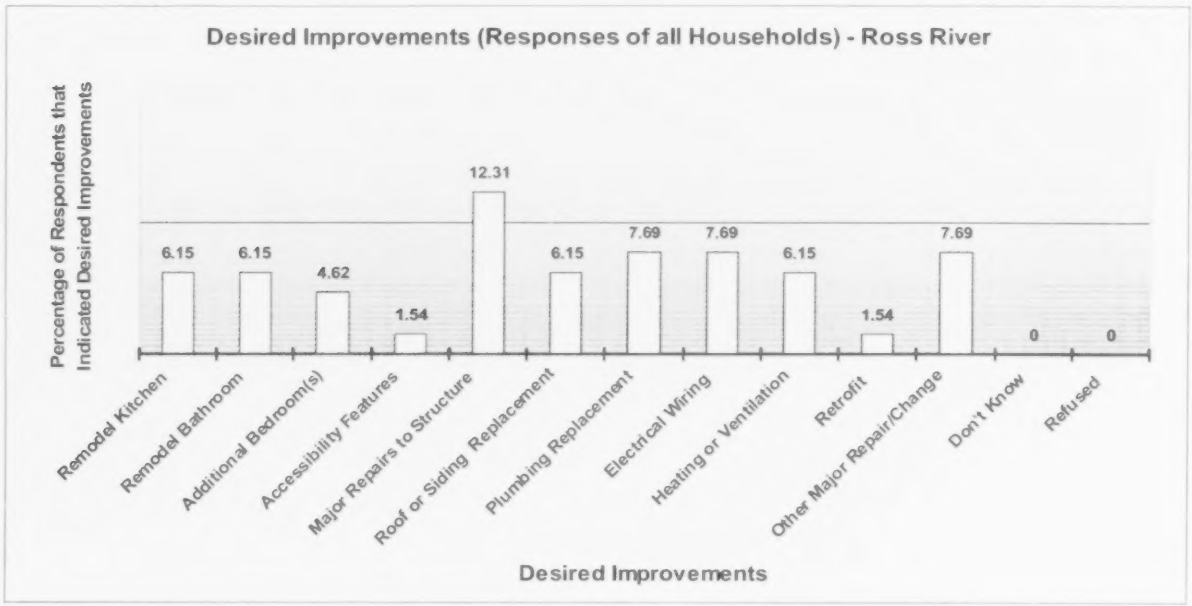
1.5 DESIRED IMPROVEMENTS

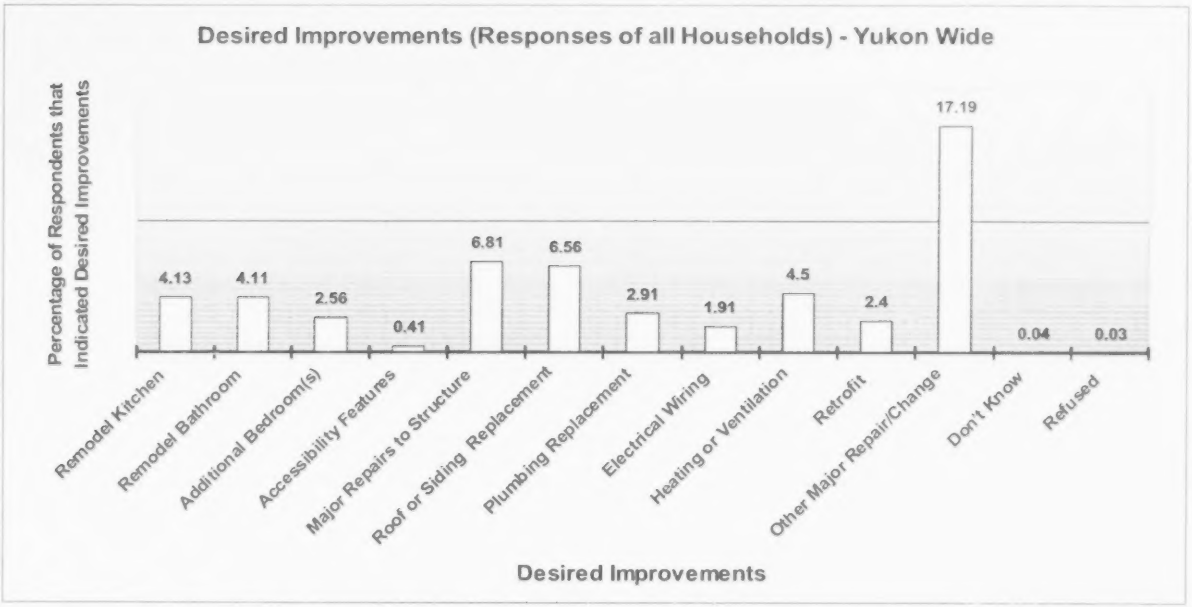
Respondents were asked what types of changes or repairs they would like to make in the next two years. The next sub-theme shows the percentage of households that desire improvements:

⇒ **DESIRED IMPROVEMENTS.**

1.5.1 DESIRED IMPROVEMENTS

"Major Repairs to Structure" includes repairs to walls, foundation, floors and ceiling. "Other Major Repair/Change" addresses the development of and/or addition of new space. These bar charts show the percentage of respondents who indicated various desired improvements.





HIGHLIGHTS

- In the majority of categories, respondents in Ross River have a greater desire for improvements than the Yukon as a whole.
- Apart from the non-specific "Other Major Repair/Change" category, structural, plumbing and electrical improvements are most desired in Ross River.

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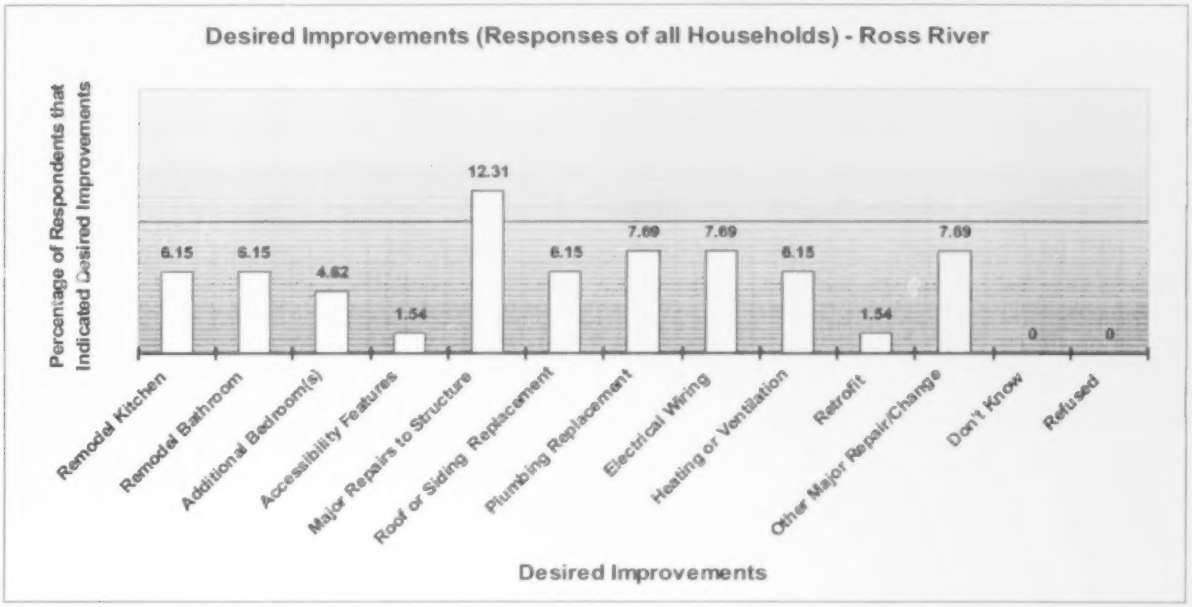
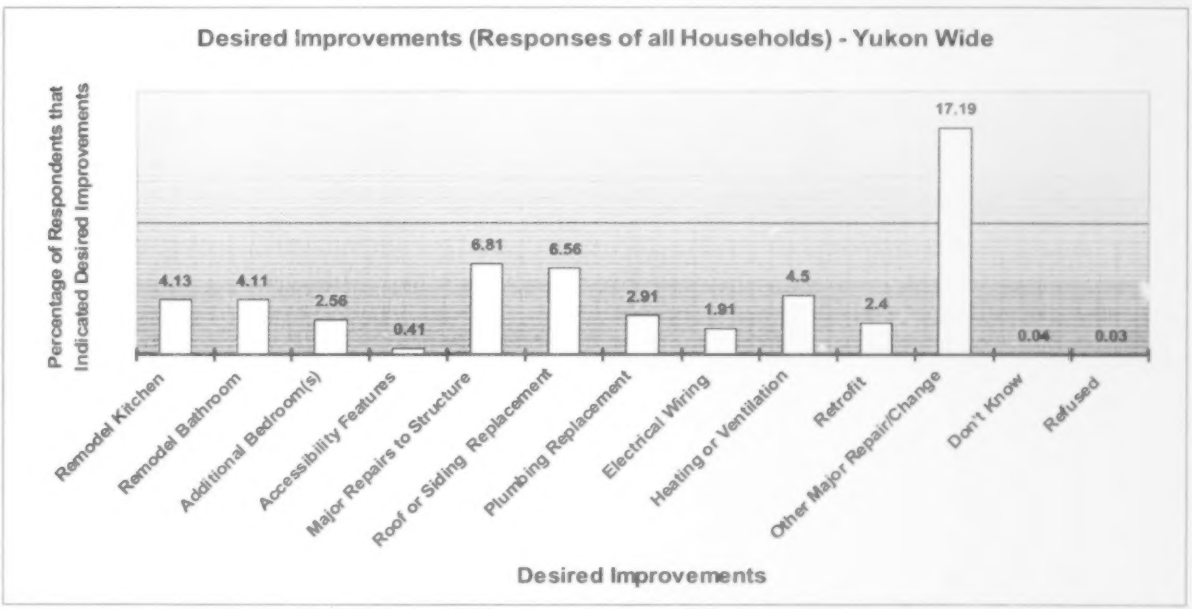




HIGHLIGHTS

- In the majority of categories, respondents in Ross River have a greater desire for improvements than the Yukon as a whole.
- Apart from the non-specific "Other Major Repair/Change" category, structural, plumbing and electrical improvements are most desired in Ross River.

2 DWELLING AFFORDABILITY

Dwelling affordability is a measure of the ability of the occupants of a dwelling to pay for their housing. Dwelling affordability was determined using ranges of incomes and ranges of expenses. Using these ranges, and the standard of 30 percent shelter cost to income ratio as a cut-off, it was possible to determine households where there was an affordability problem, households where there was no affordability problem, and households where there was a "possible" affordability problem. There were also households where respondents did not provide household income and/or expense information. These fell into the "insufficient data" category.

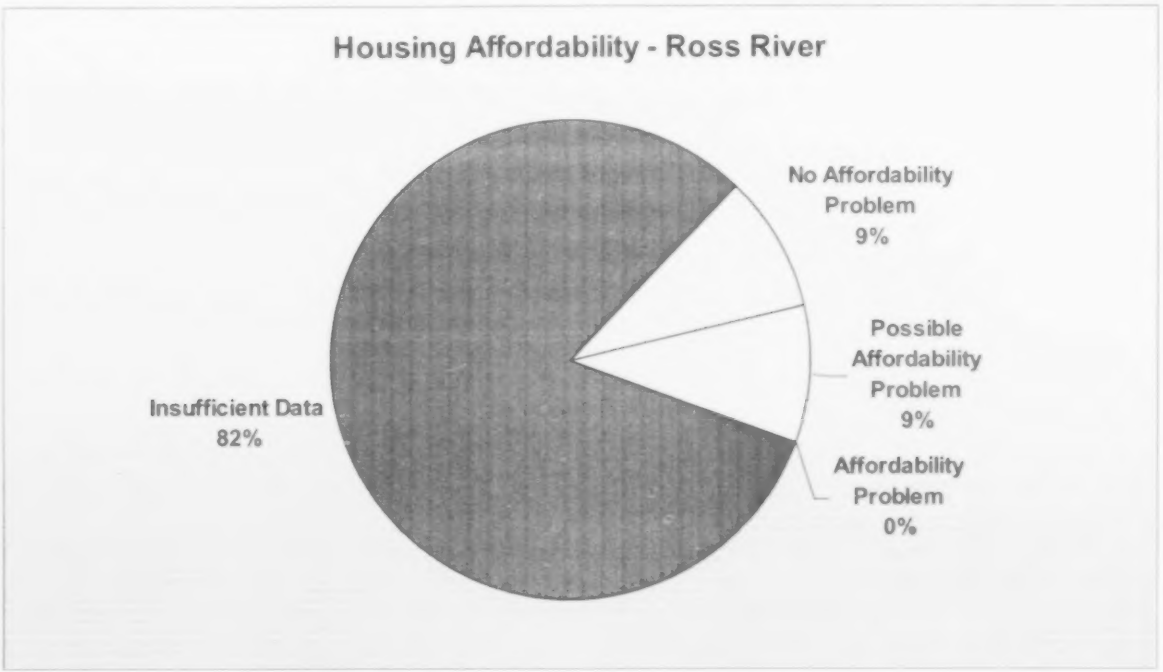
2.1 PRESENCE OR ABSENCE OF AFFORDABILITY PROBLEM

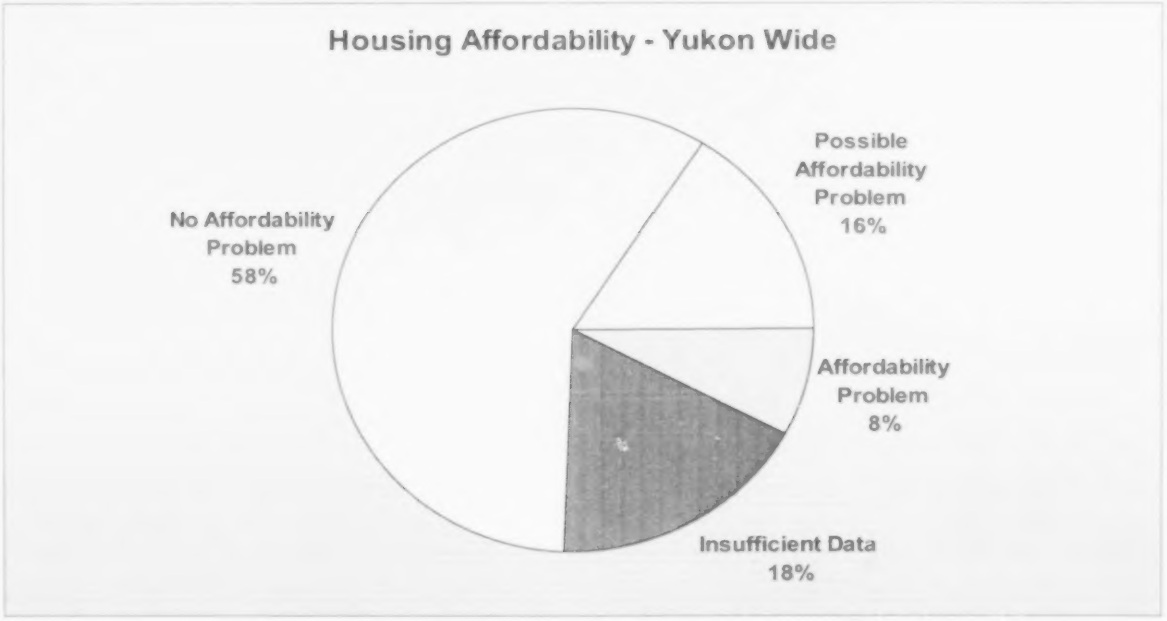
Respondents were asked whether they had an affordability problem. The next sub-theme shows dwelling affordability in Ross River and in the Yukon:

⇒ AFFORDABILITY.

2.1.1 AFFORDABILITY

The following pie charts show the percentage of households in each category:



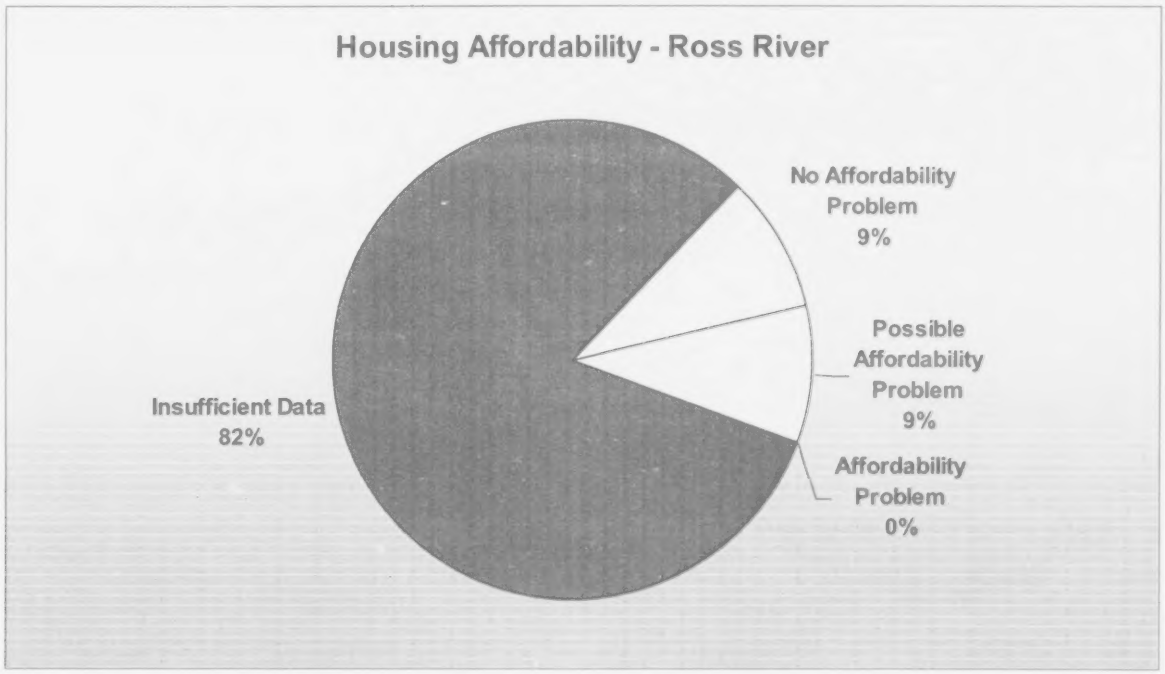


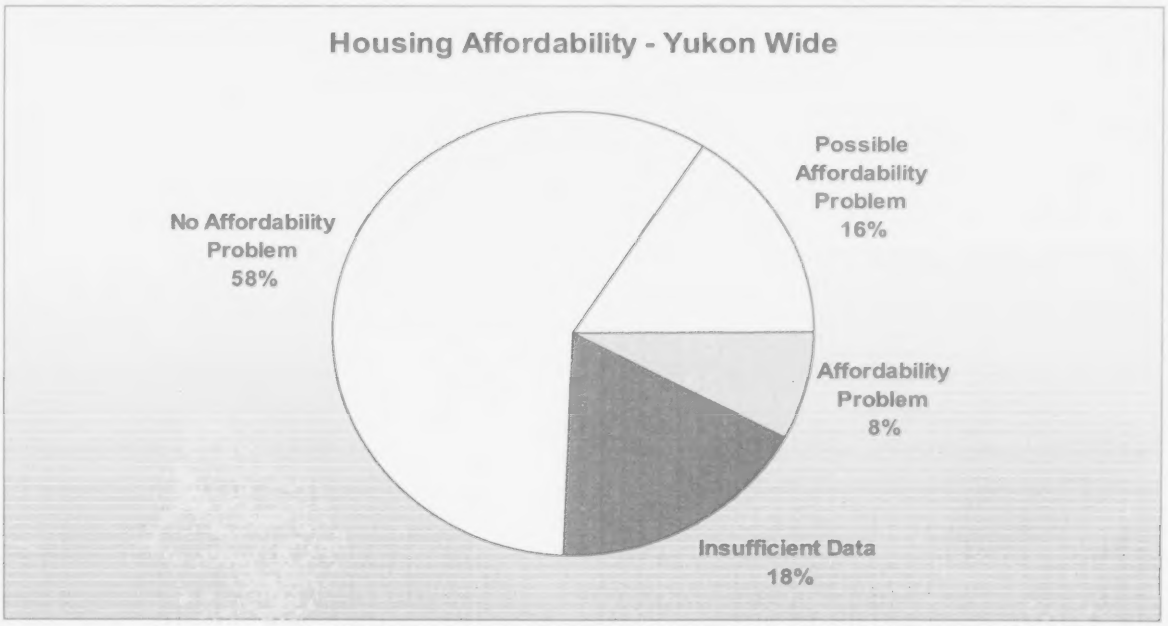
HIGHLIGHTS

- Ross River and Yukon wide results are different.
- In Ross River, the large "insufficient data" category, 82 percent, makes this data inconclusive.

2.1.1 AFFORDABILITY

The following pie charts show the percentage of households in each category:





HIGHLIGHTS

- Ross River and Yukon wide results are different.
- In Ross River, the large "insufficient data" category, 82 percent, makes this data inconclusive.

3 DWELLING SUITABILITY

"Dwelling suitability" in housing refers to the appropriateness of the dwelling for the people living in it including factors such as crowding and accessibility.

3.1 CROWDING

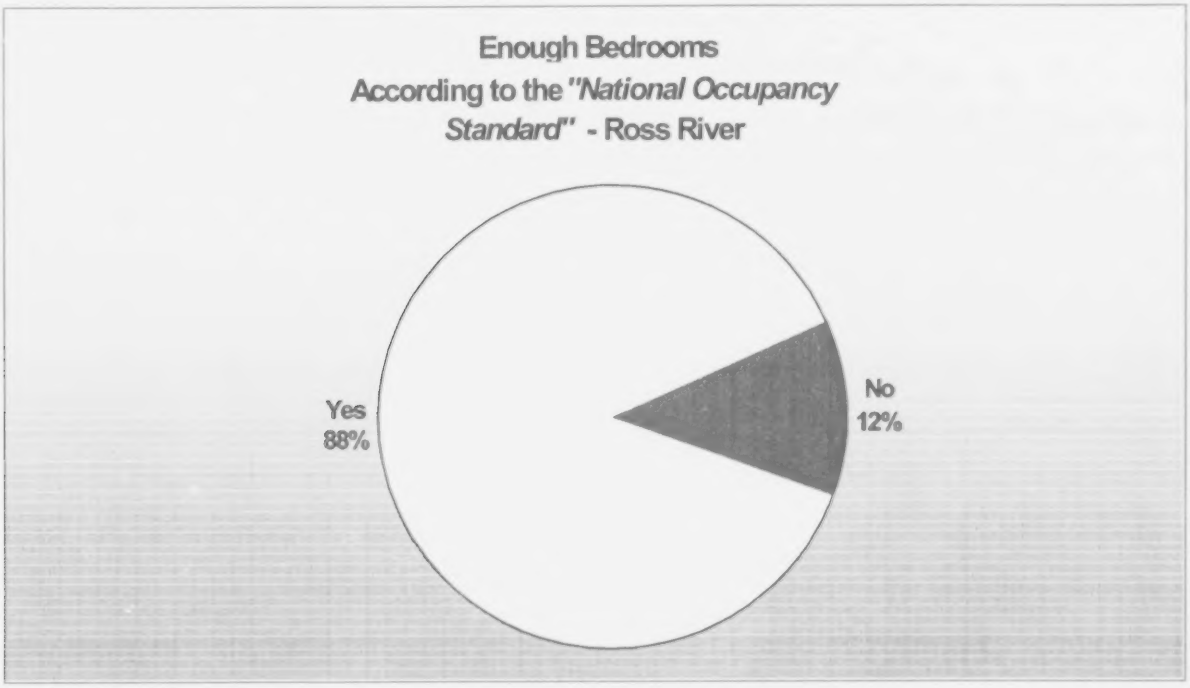
The National Occupancy Standard stipulates, for example, a minimum number of bedrooms required in a dwelling depending on the age and gender composition of the household. According to this standard, for example, separate bedrooms are required for each adult over the age of 18 unless that adult is in a married or common-law relationship with another household member. The next two sub-themes address crowding:

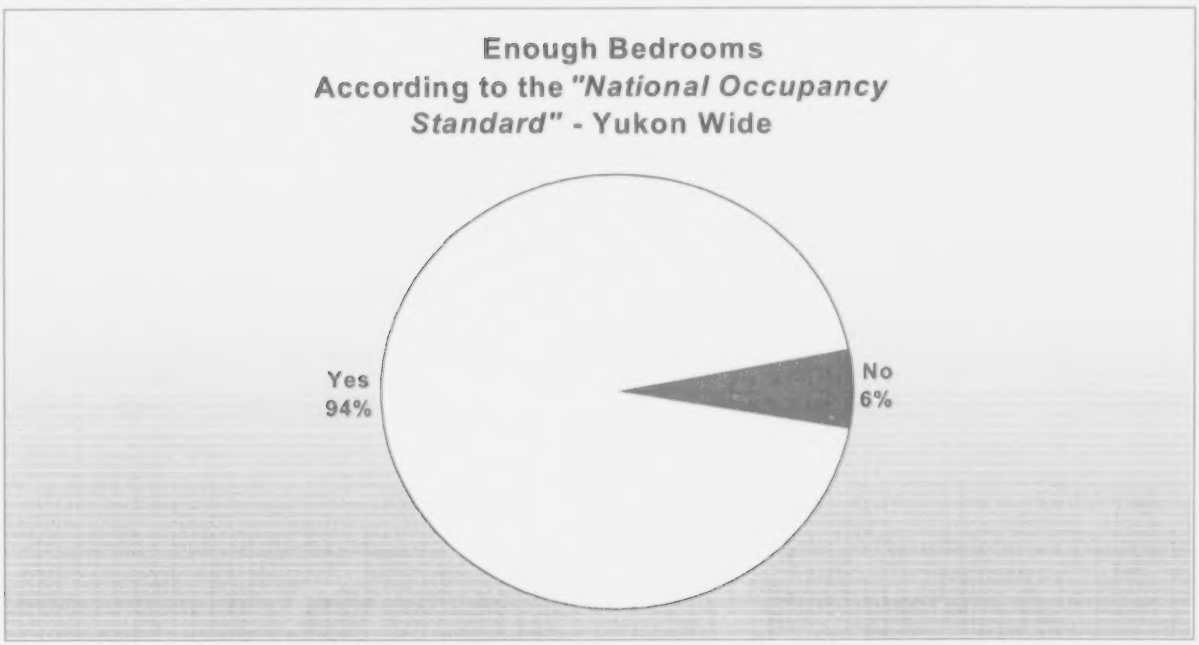
⇒ **BEDROOMS,**

⇒ **PERCENTAGE OF HOUSEHOLDS THAT USE OTHER ROOMS AS BEDROOMS.**

3.1.1 BEDROOMS

The following pie charts show the percentage of households with enough bedrooms:



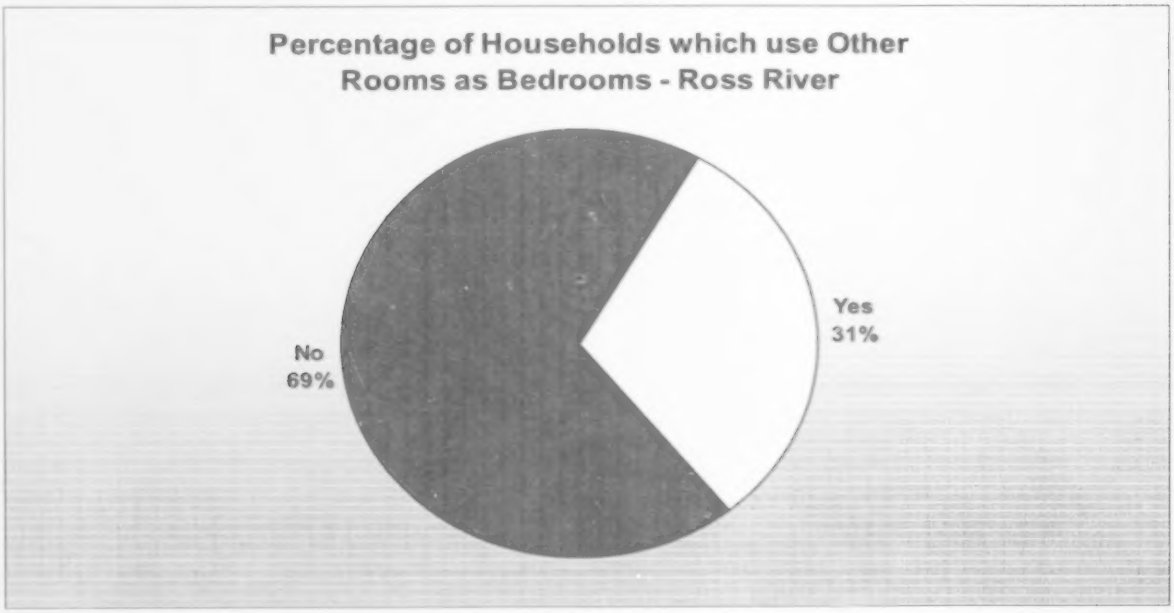


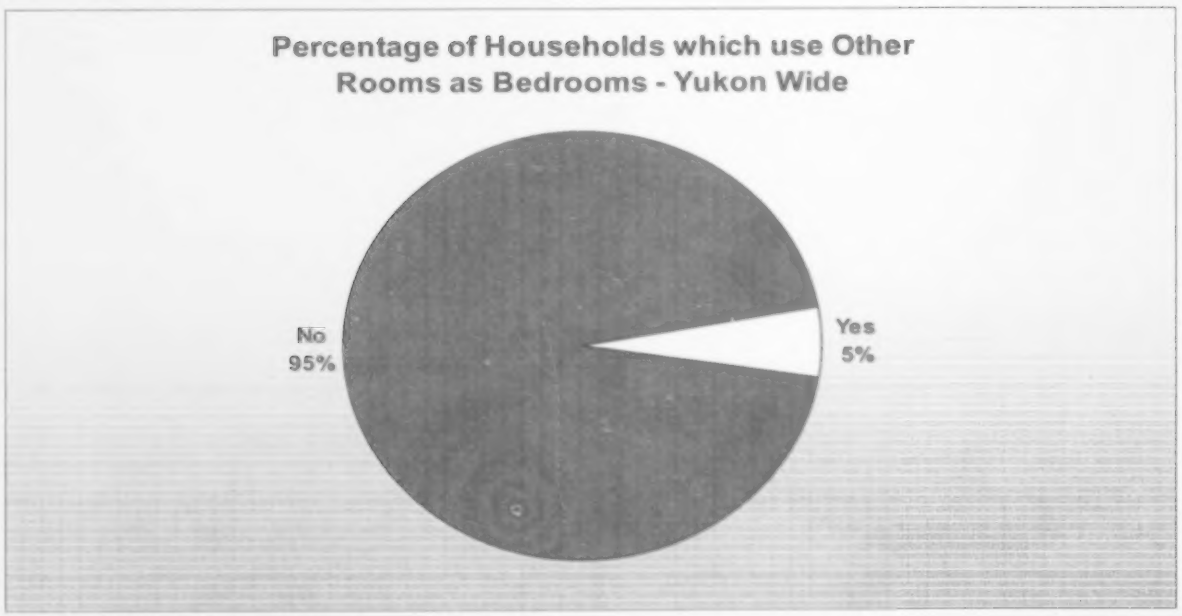
HIGHLIGHTS

- According to the *National Occupancy Standard*, 12 percent of all households in Ross River do not have enough bedrooms. This is two times the Yukon average of 6 percent.

3.1.2 PERCENTAGE OF HOUSEHOLDS THAT USE OTHER ROOMS AS BEDROOMS

Some households use rooms other than bedrooms as bedrooms. The percentage of households that do this is shown below for both Ross River and the Yukon in general.



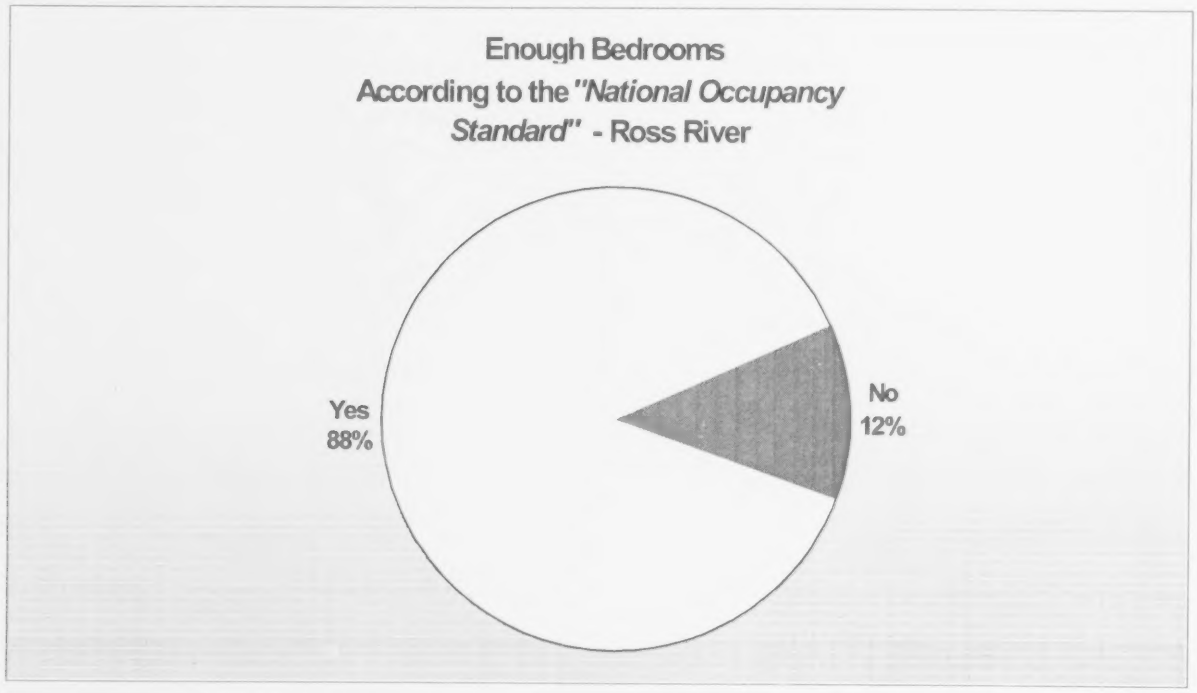


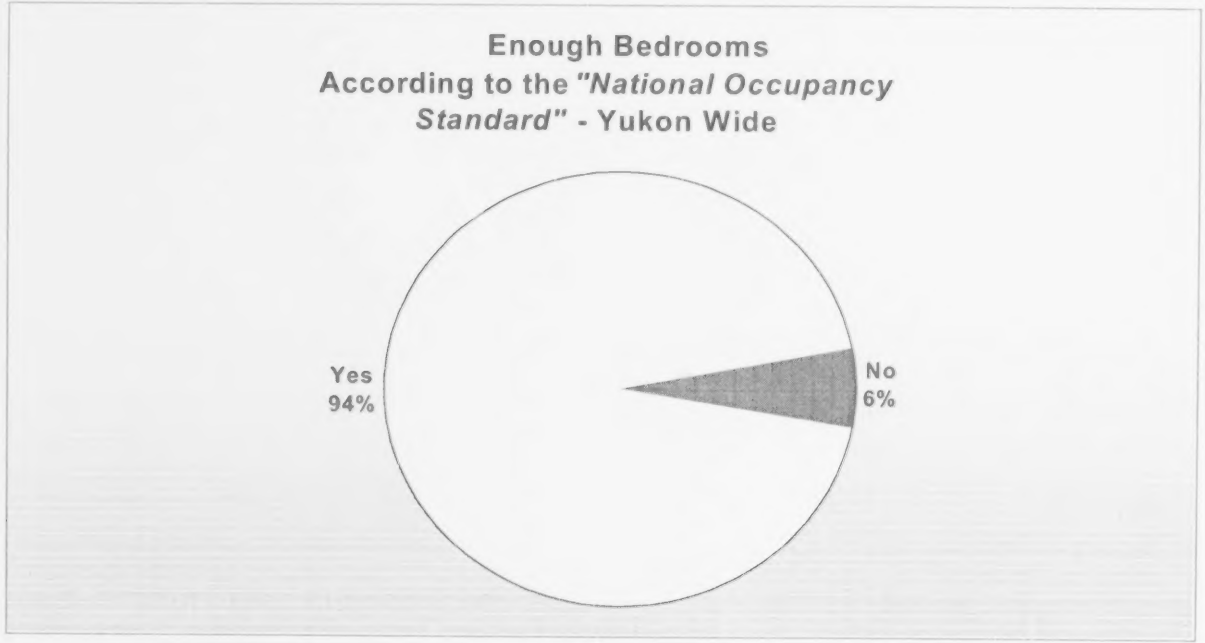
HIGHLIGHTS

- 31 percent of all households in Ross River use rooms other than bedrooms as bedrooms.
- This is over 6 times the Yukon average of 5 percent of households that use other rooms as bedrooms.

3.1.1 BEDROOMS

The following pie charts show the percentage of households with enough bedrooms:





HIGHLIGHTS

- According to the *National Occupancy Standard*, 12 percent of all households in Ross River do not have enough bedrooms. This is two times the Yukon average of 6 percent.

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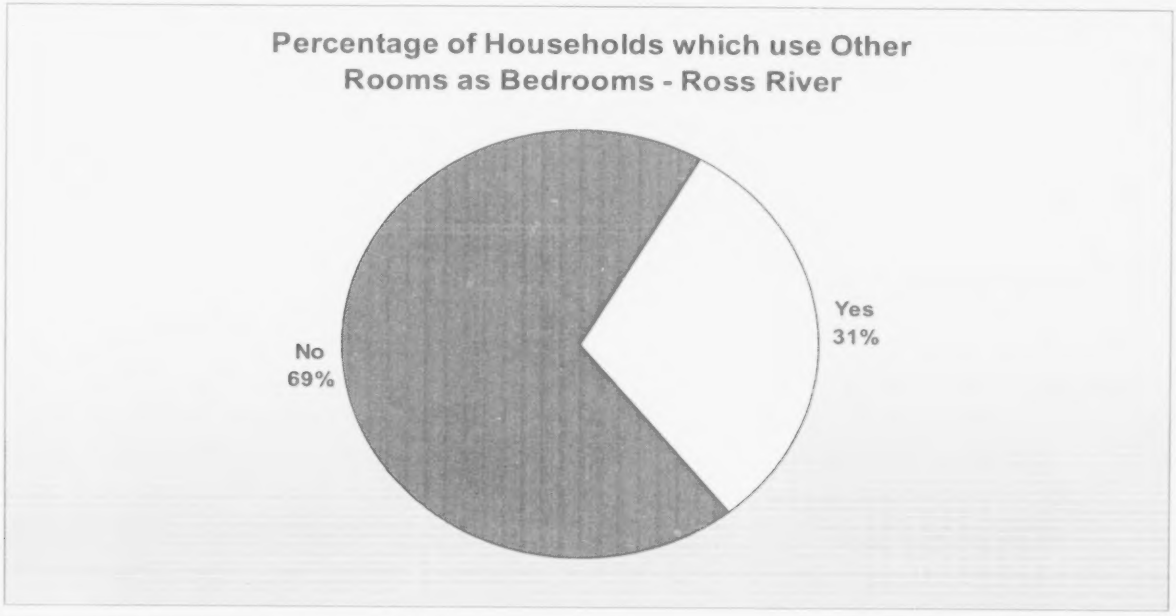
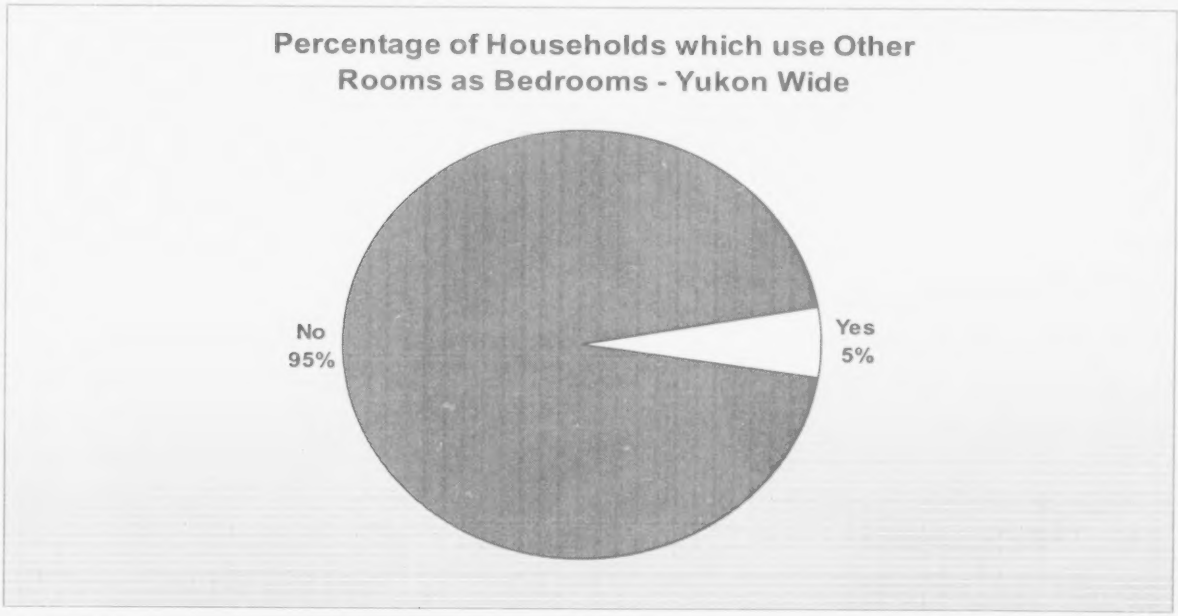




HIGHLIGHTS

- 31 percent of all households in Ross River use rooms other than bedrooms as bedrooms.
- This is over 6 times the Yukon average of 5 percent of households that use other rooms as bedrooms.

3.2 ACCESSIBILITY FOR DISABLED AND ELDERLY

Another factor used in determining the suitability of housing is accessibility of the dwelling for those households with one or more disabled members. In order to determine the importance of this factor, the number of households that have disabled members must be determined. This information is shown in the next three sub-themes:

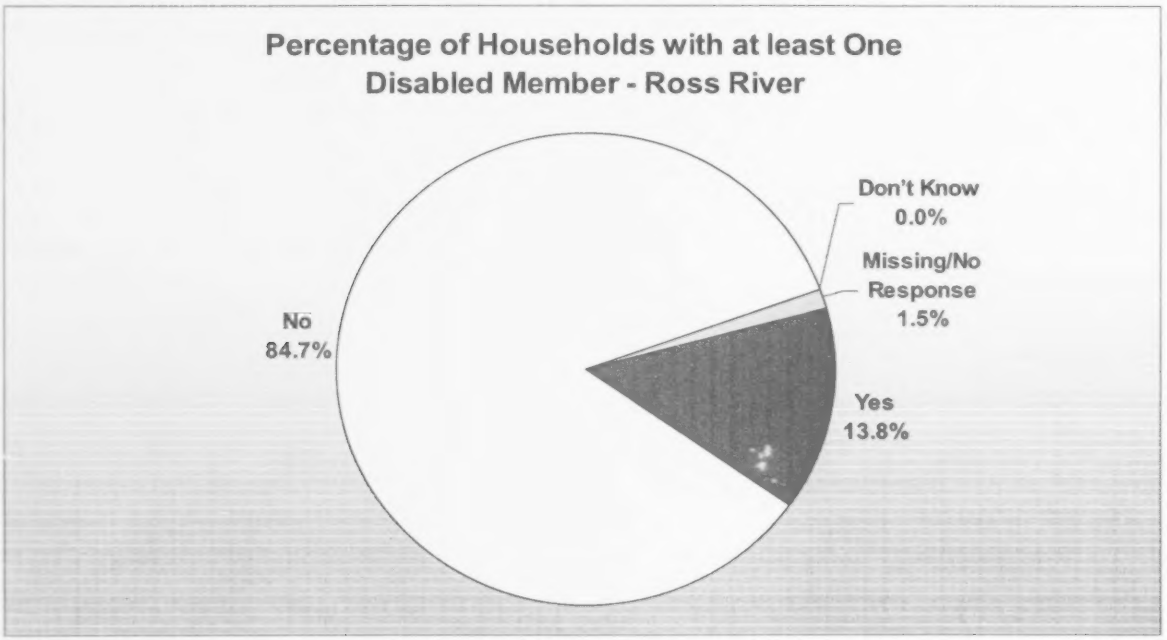
⇒ **PERCENTAGE OF HOUSEHOLDS WITH AT LEAST ONE DISABLED PERSON,**

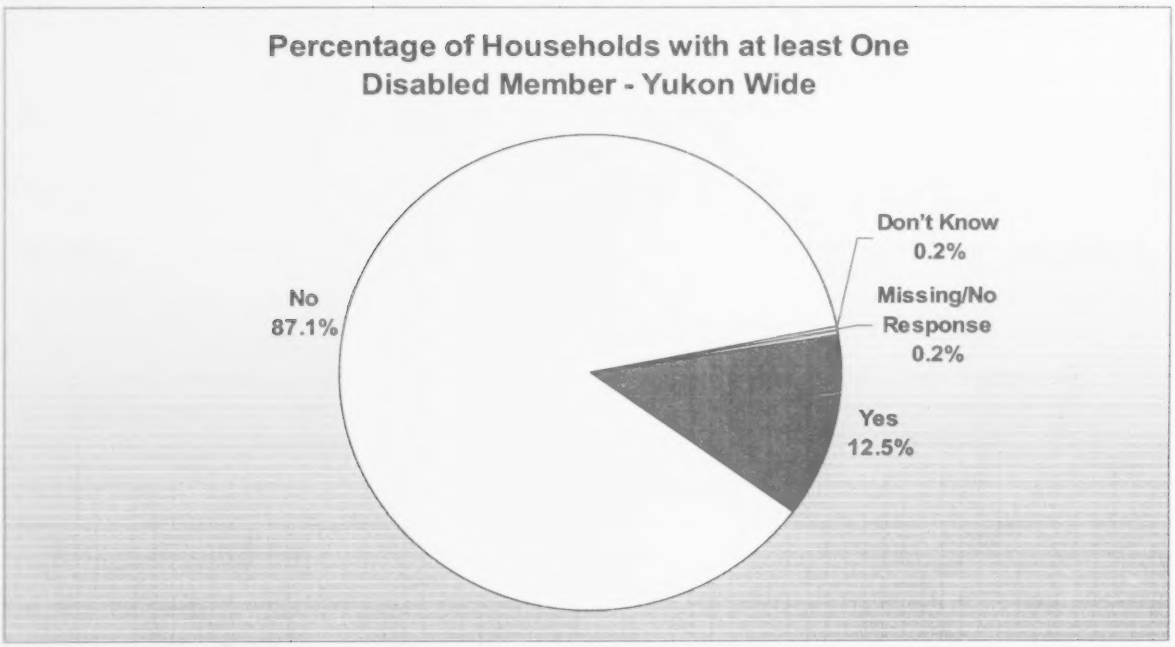
⇒ **NUMBER OF DISABLED PEOPLE IN HOUSEHOLDS,**

⇒ **ACCESSIBILITY FEATURE(S) REQUIRED.**

3.2.1 PERCENTAGE OF HOUSEHOLDS WITH AT LEAST ONE DISABLED PERSON

"Disability" was defined as either a mobility impairment requiring a wheelchair, other mobility impairment (for example, arthritis), visual, auditory, or other disability. The following pie charts show the percentage of households that have at least one disabled person.





HIGHLIGHTS

- 13.8 percent of households in Ross River have at least one disabled member. This is slightly higher than the Yukon wide percentage of 12.5.

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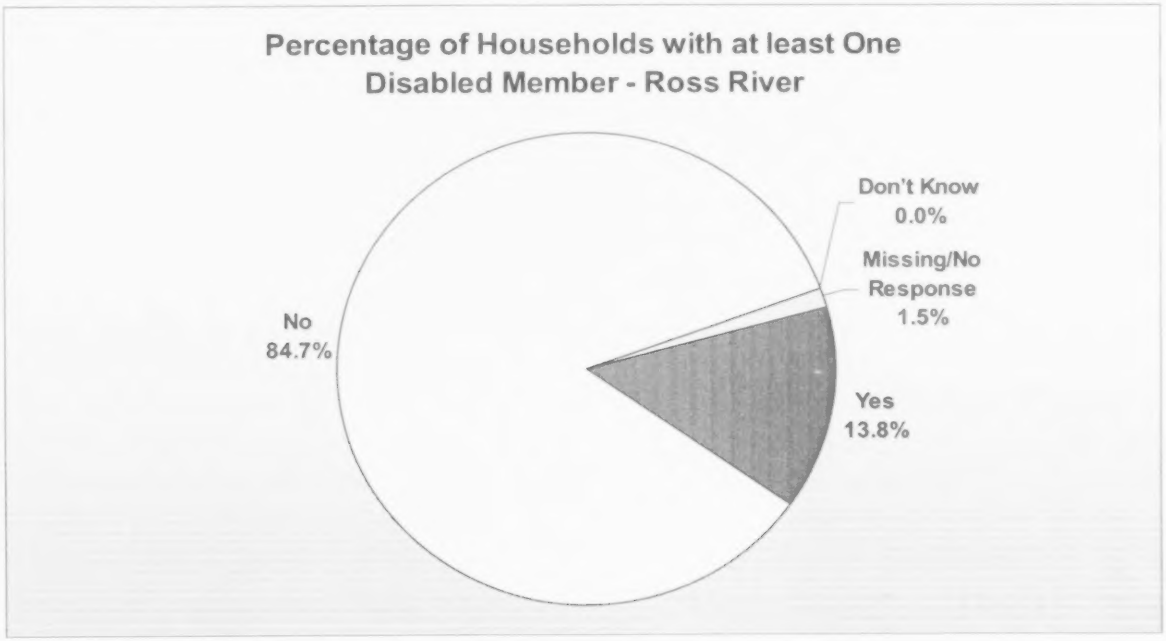
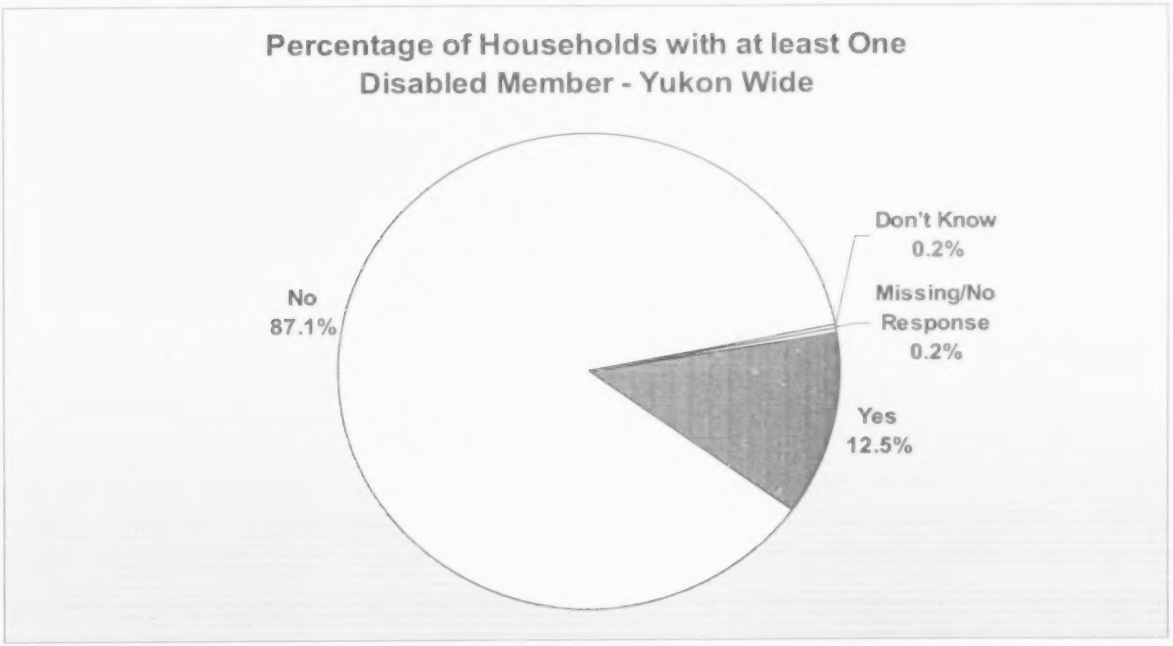


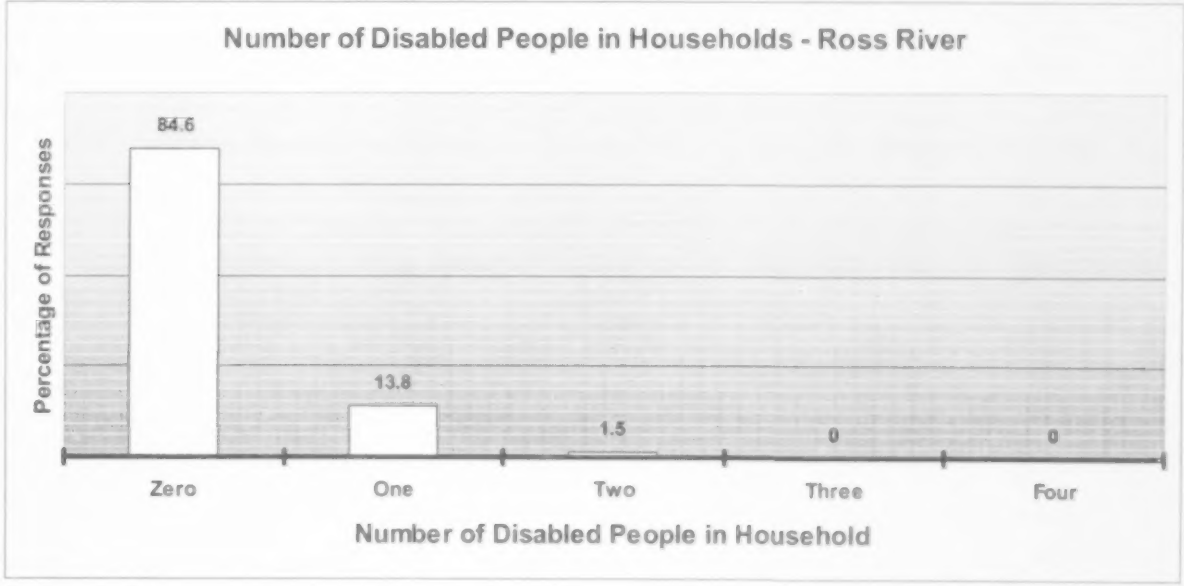


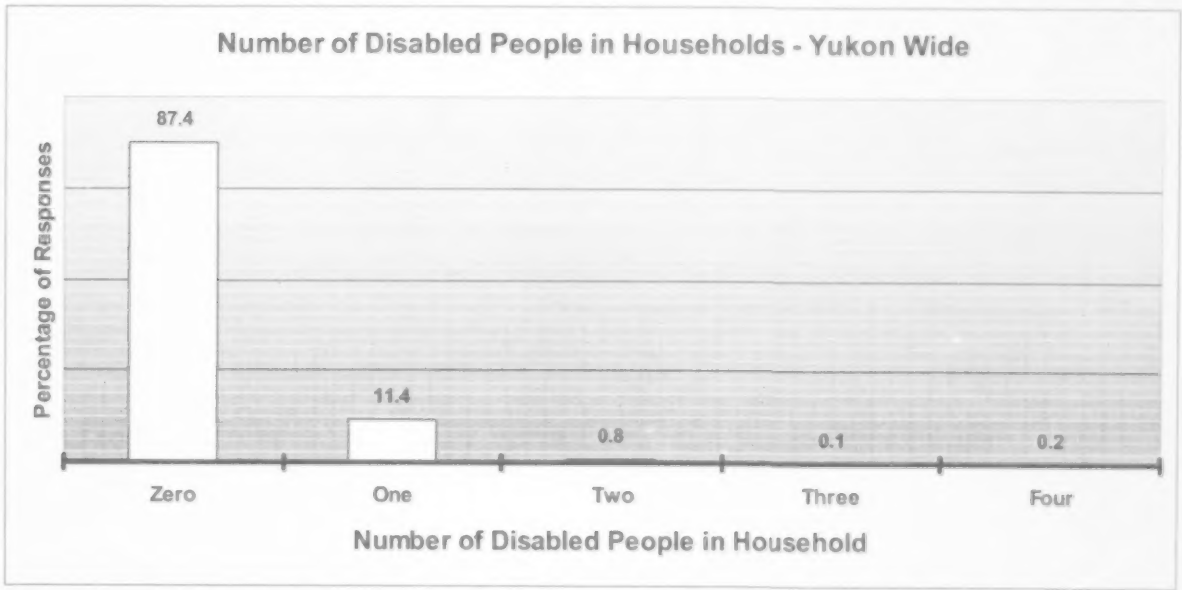
HIGHLIGHTS

- 13.8 percent of households in Ross River have at least one disabled member. This is slightly higher than the Yukon wide percentage of 12.5.

3.2.2 NUMBER OF DISABLED PEOPLE IN HOUSEHOLDS.

These bar charts illustrate the percentage of households with zero, one, two, three or four disabled people.



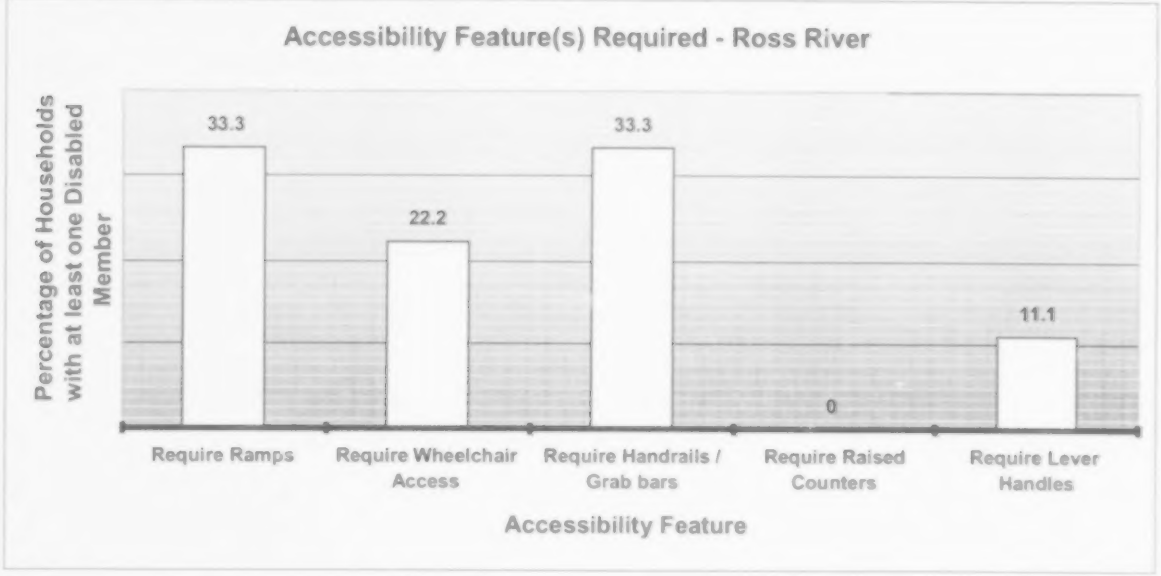


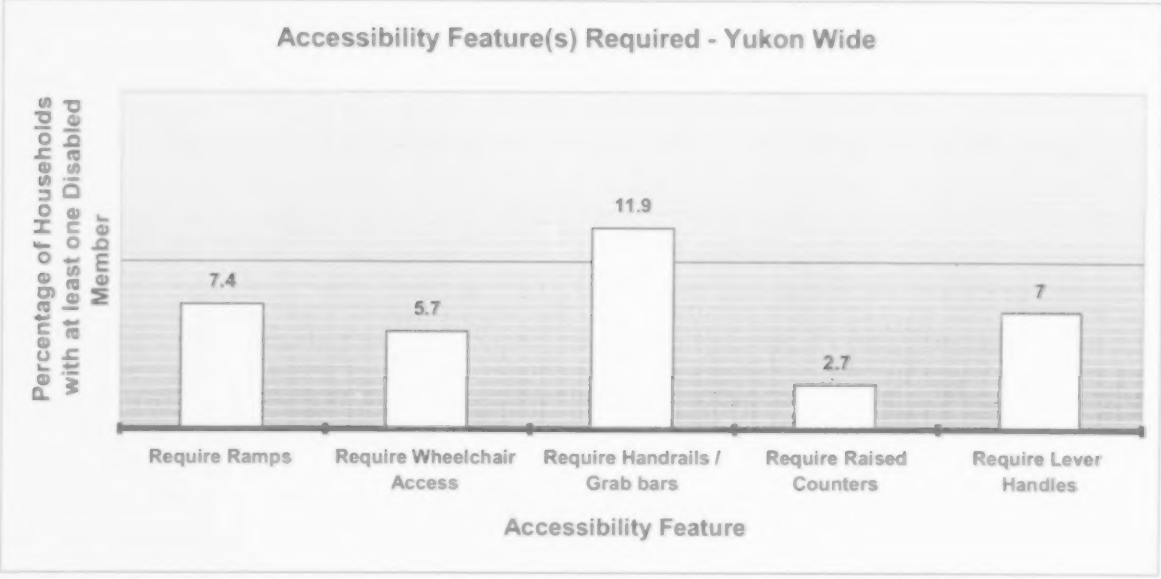
HIGHLIGHTS

- Ross River and Yukon wide results are similar.
- Approximately 130 households in the Yukon have more than 2 disabled members.

3.2.3 ACCESSIBILITY FEATURE(S) REQUIRED

These bar charts illustrate the kinds of features required by households with at least one disabled person.





HIGHLIGHTS

- The percentage of Ross River households with at least one disabled member who responded stated they required a variety of accessibility features. Responses were higher in every category compared to the Yukon except for "raised counters."
- Note, total numbers in each case are extremely small.

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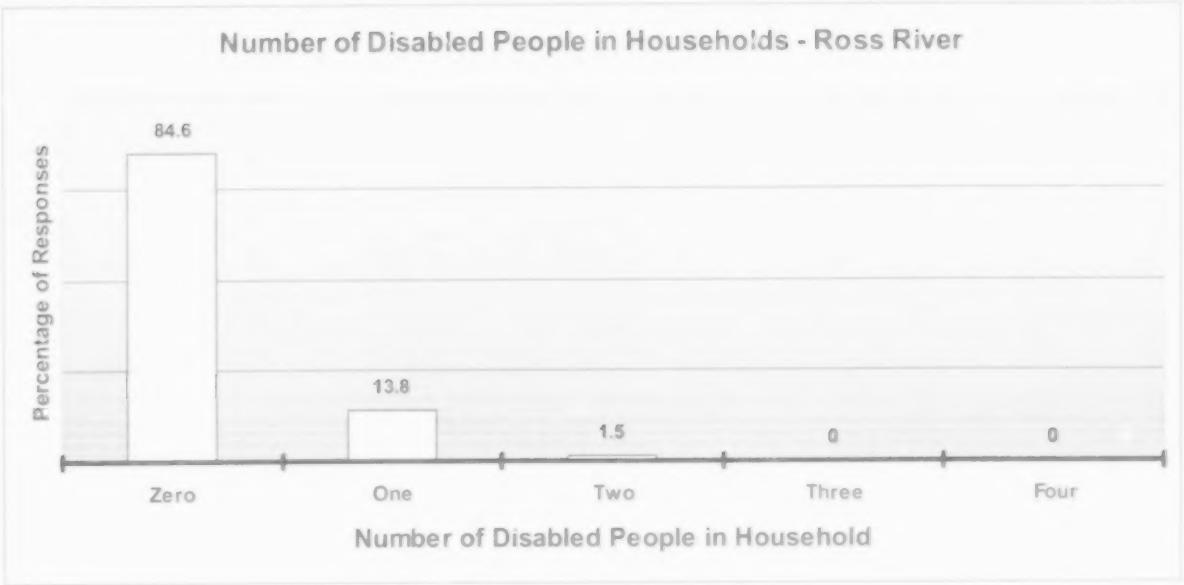

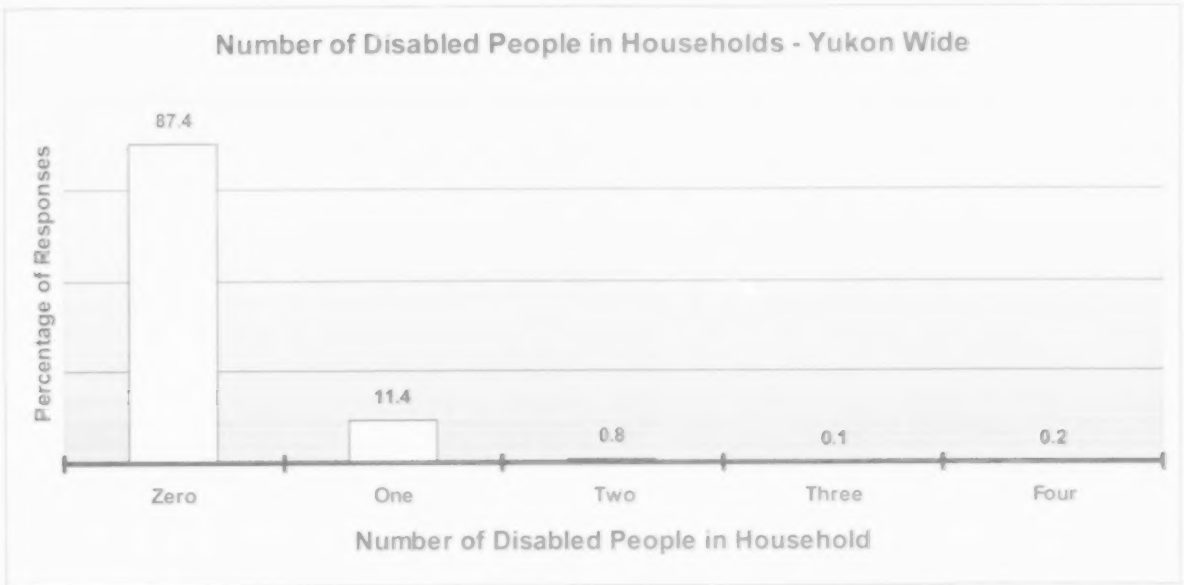

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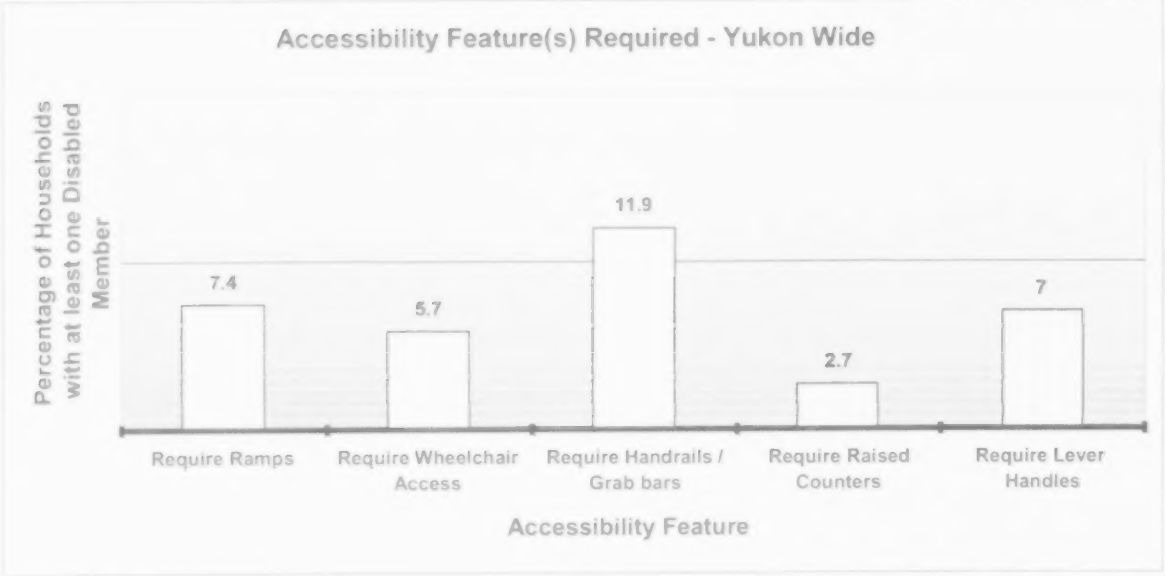


HIGHLIGHTS

- The percentage of Ross River households with at least one disabled member who responded stated they required a variety of accessibility features. Responses were higher in every category compared to the Yukon except for "raised counters."
- Note, total numbers in each case are extremely small.

4 ACCESS TO HOME OWNERSHIP

This category of information helps us to determine why renters have chosen to remain renters rather than buying a dwelling.

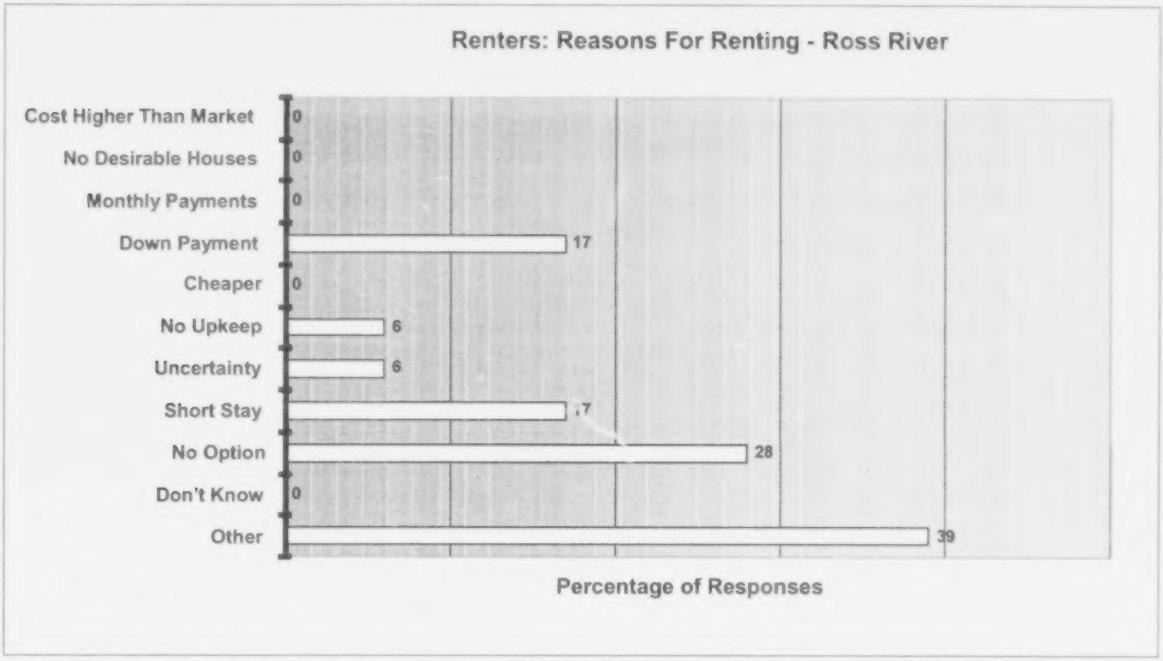
4.1 RENTERS

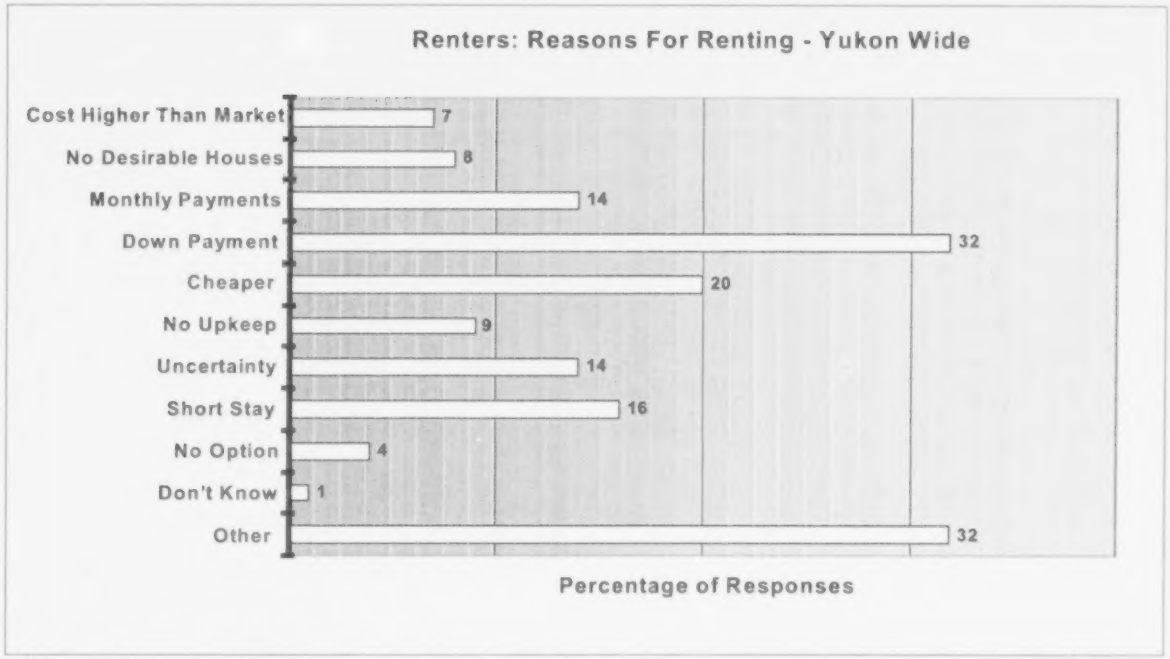
The next sub-theme shows the responses of renters when asked, "Why have you chosen to rent rather than purchase housing?"

⇒ RENTERS REASONS FOR RENTING.

4.1.1 RENTERS REASONS FOR RENTING

These bar charts show the responses of renters.





HIGHLIGHTS

- In Ross River, aside from the unspecified "Other" answer, down payment, no option, and short stay were the most common answers.
- "Other" includes reasons not captured in another category.

4.1.1 RENTERS REASONS FOR RENTING

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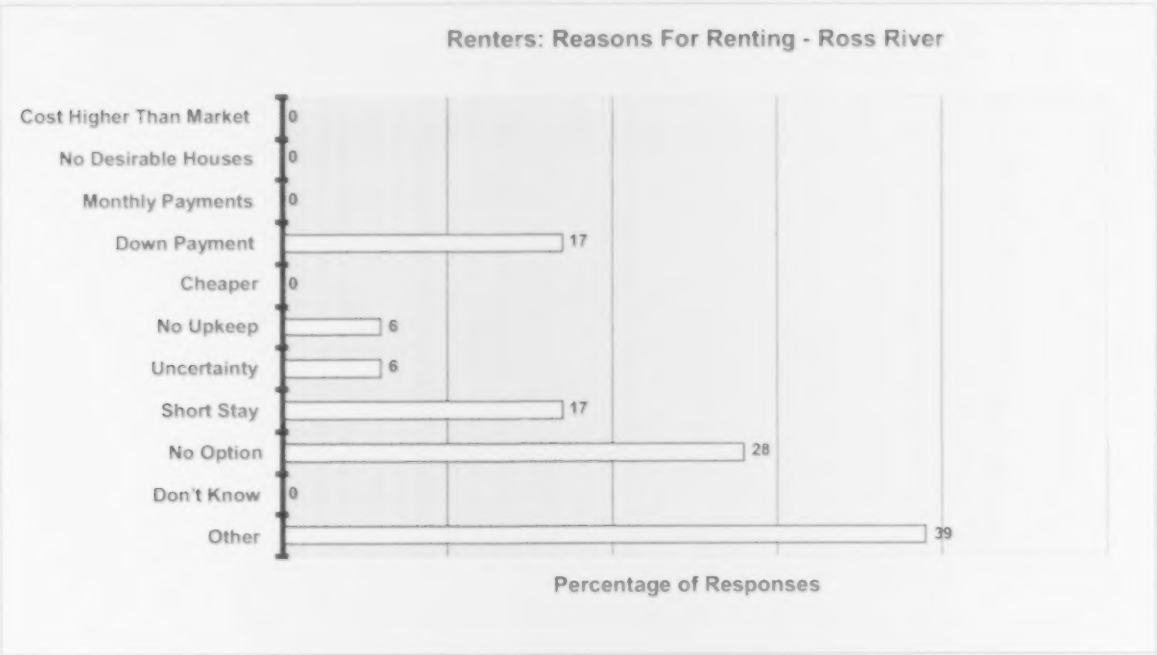
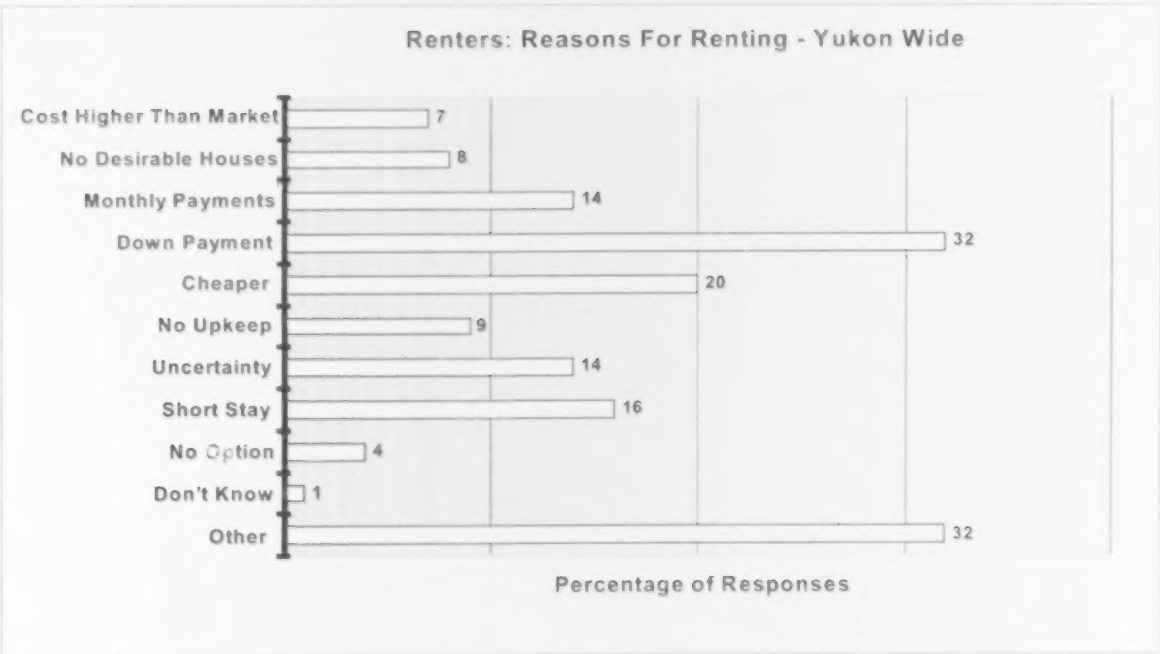




HIGHLIGHTS

- In Ross River, aside from the unspecified "Other" answer, down payment, no option, and short stay were the most common answers.
- "Other" includes reasons not captured in another category.

5 SENIORS AND ELDERS NEEDS

The last set of housing quality indicators this study covers is the housing needs of seniors and elders. The study of the appropriateness of, and the need for adaptations in seniors and elders housing is essentially a sub-study of "Dwelling Suitability". However, because of our aging population, it has become increasingly important to understand the housing needs of this sub-group of the population. We have made a particular effort in this study to understand current, and probable future needs of this group. Again, in order to understand the importance of this, the number of households must be determined.

5.1 HOUSEHOLD TYPE

The following charts show the percentages of various types of households in the population. They also illustrate a range of housing quality indicators associated with the three kinds of households:

- *Senior Household*: refers to a household in which all members are 55 years of age and over.
- *Mixed Senior Household*: refers to a household in which there is at least one member 55 years of age and over, and at least one member less than 55 years.
- *Non-Senior Household:* refers to a household in which there are no members over the age of 55.

The next three sub-themes address household types:

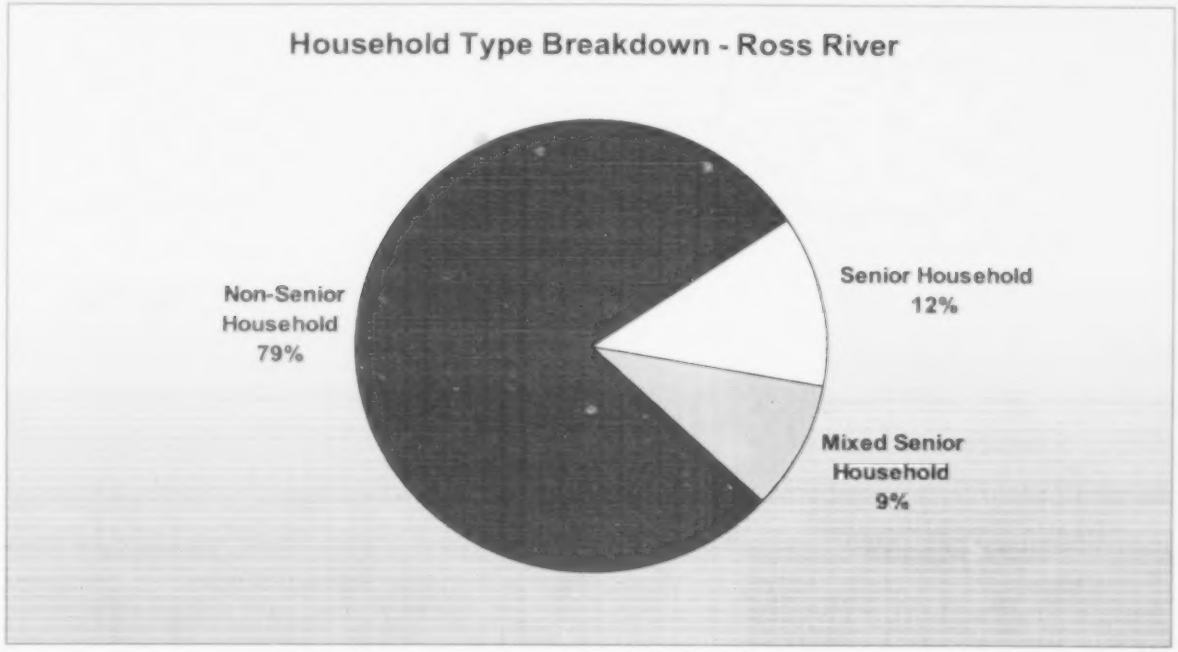
⇒ HOUSEHOLD TYPE BREAKDOWN,

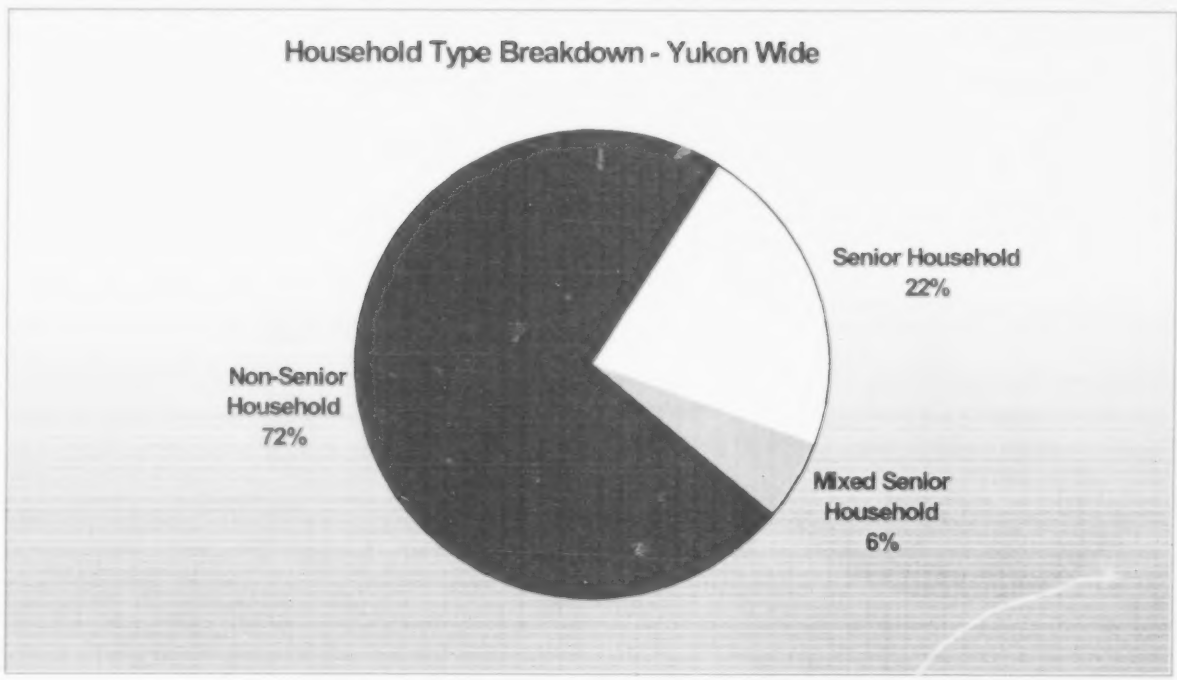
⇒ HOUSEHOLD TYPE VERSUS REPAIR NEED,

⇒ HOUSEHOLD TYPE VERSUS BASIC HOUSEHOLD FACILITIES.

5.1.1 HOUSEHOLD TYPE BREAKDOWN

The following pie charts show household type breakdown:



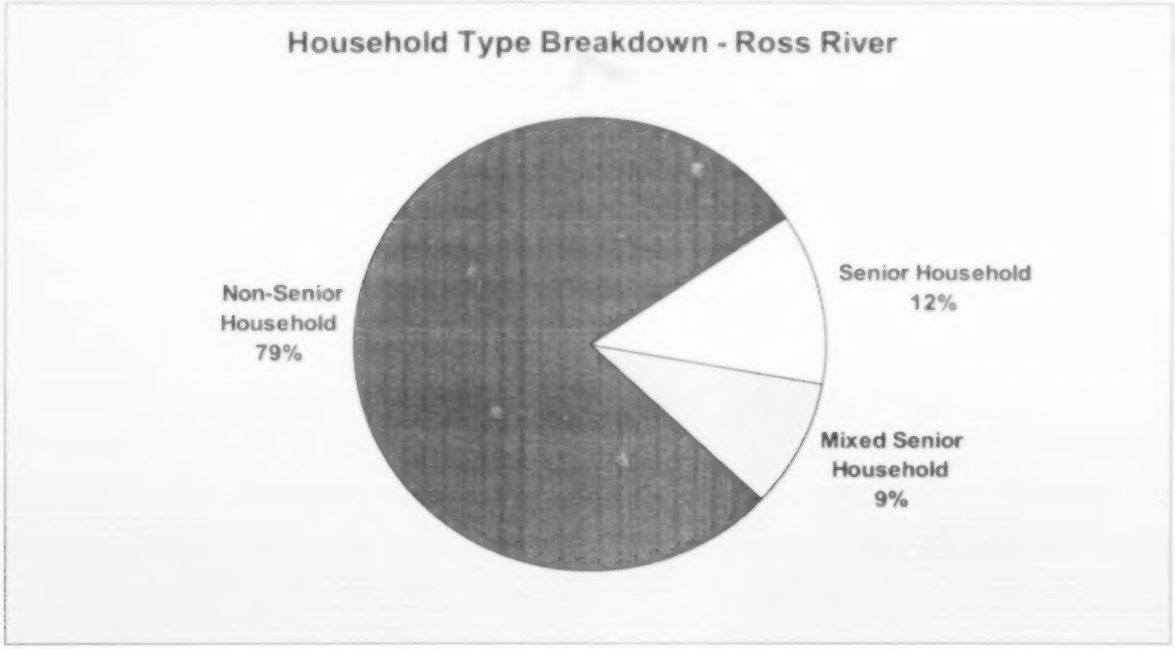


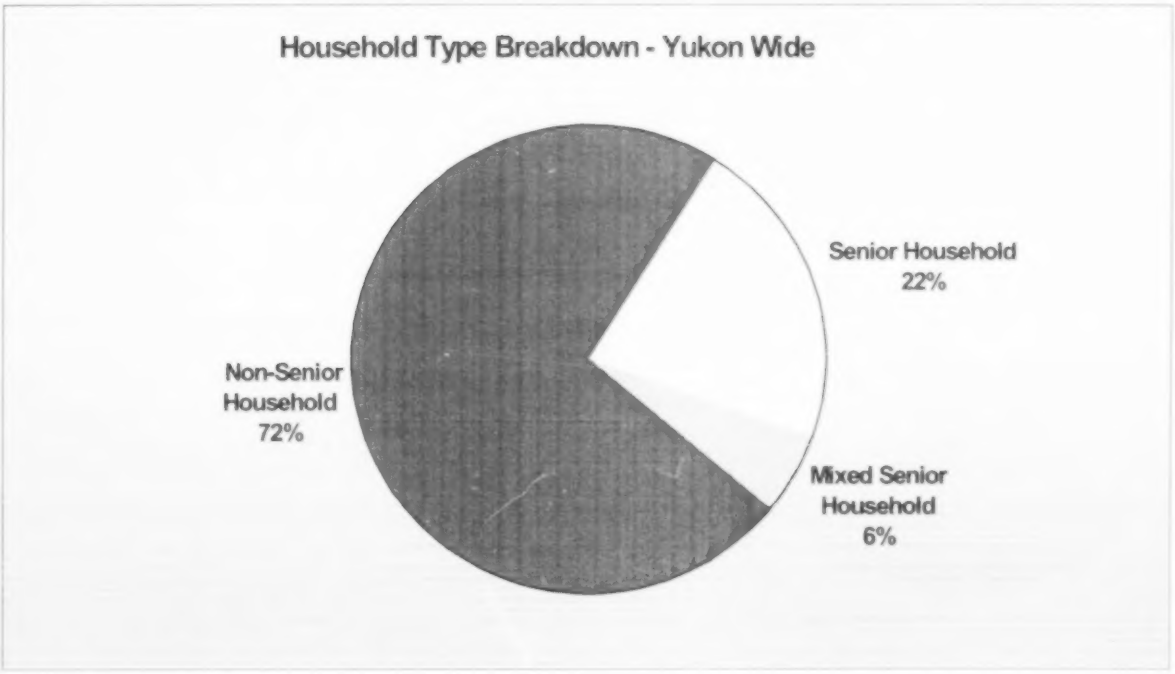
HIGHLIGHTS

- Senior households represent 12 percent of all households in Ross River.
- The number of households with at least one senior member represents 21 percent of all households in Ross River.

5.1.1 HOUSEHOLD TYPE BREAKDOWN

The following pie charts show household type breakdown:



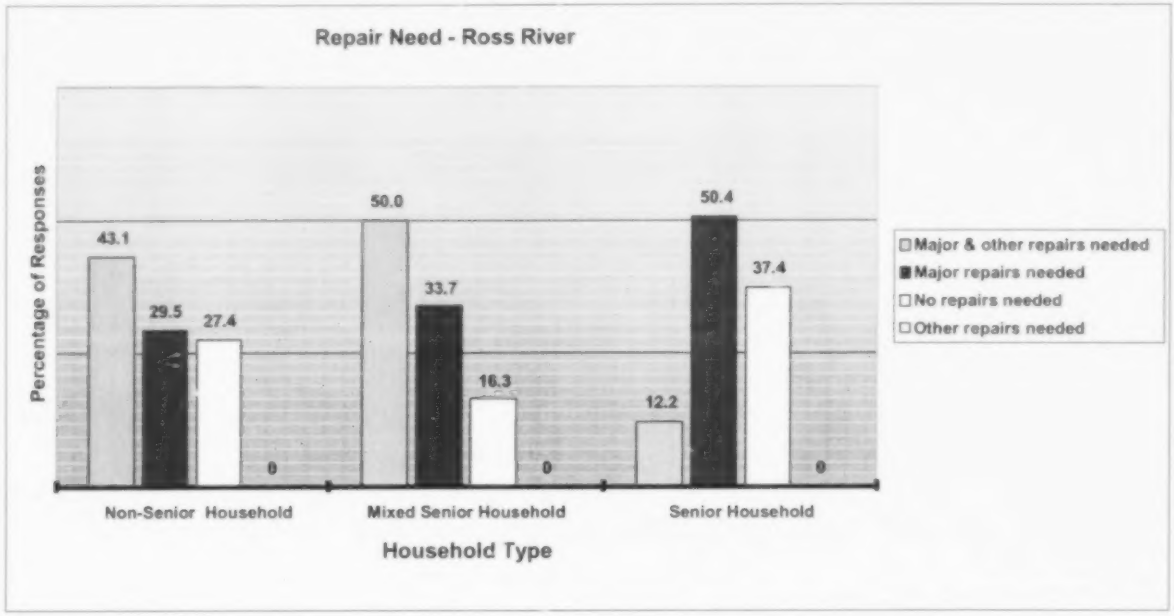


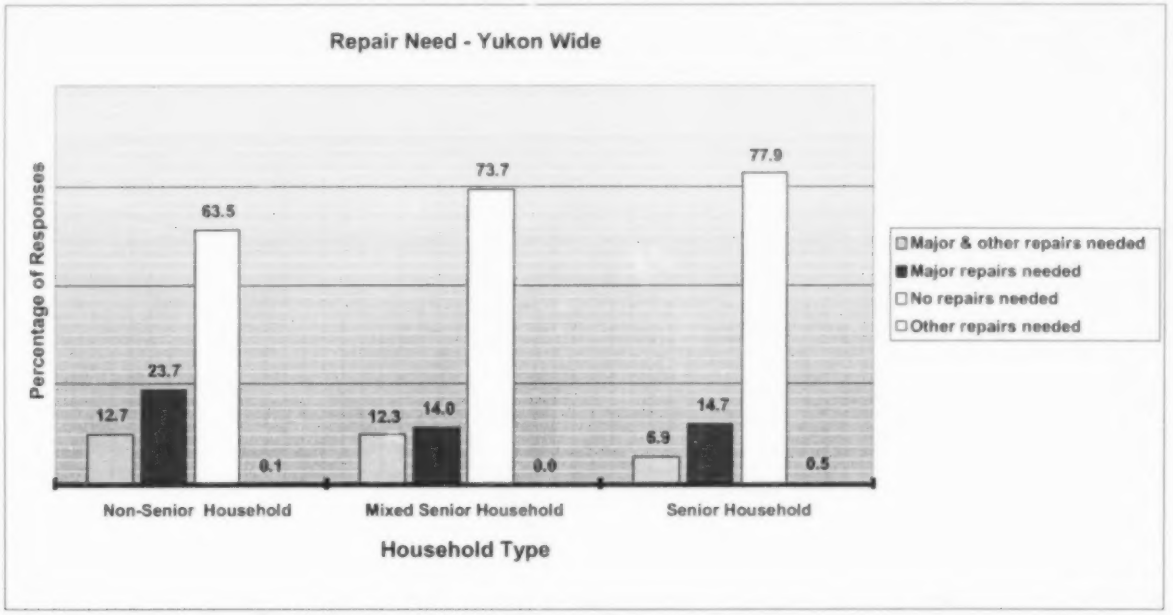
HIGHLIGHTS

- Senior households represent 12 percent of all households in Ross River.
- The number of households with at least one senior member represents 21 percent of all households in Ross River.

5.1.2 HOUSEHOLD TYPE VERSUS REPAIR NEED

These bar charts are included to show the kinds of households that are in need of repair.



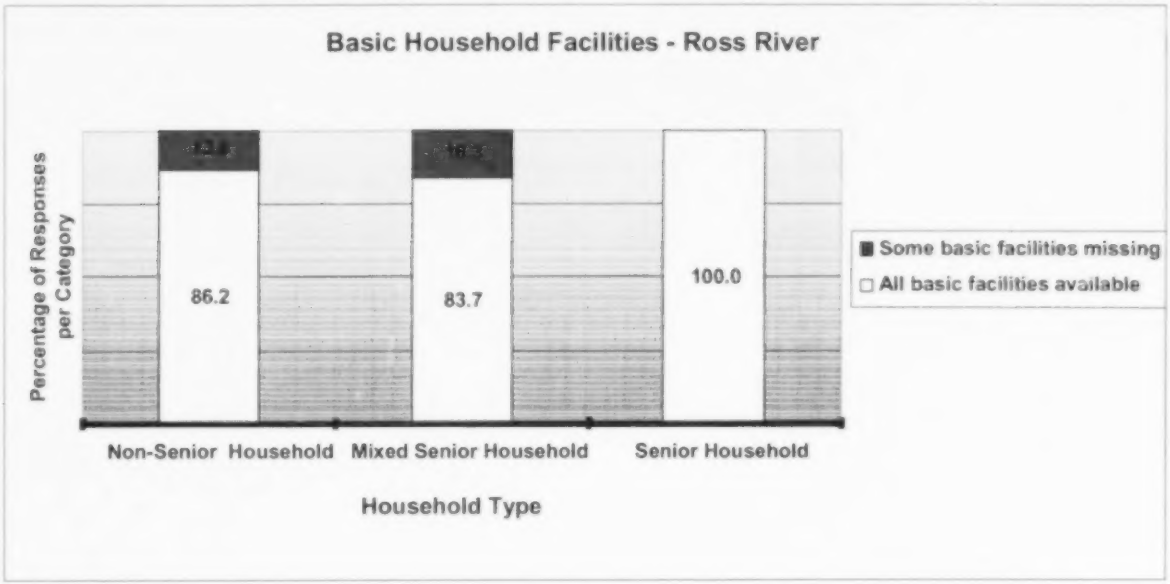


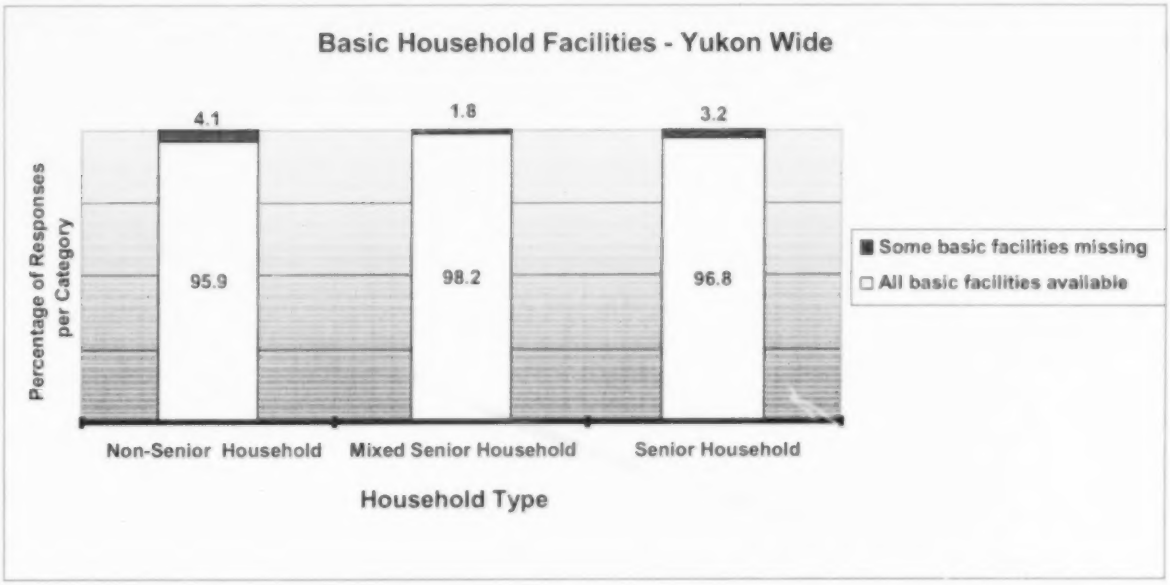
HIGHLIGHTS

- The need for repair in each household category is much higher in Ross River than the Yukon.
- 12.2 percent of senior households require major and other repairs.
- 50.4 percent of senior households require major repairs.

5.1.3 HOUSEHOLD TYPE VERSUS BASIC HOUSEHOLD FACILITIES

These bar charts compare the type of households with basic facilities.



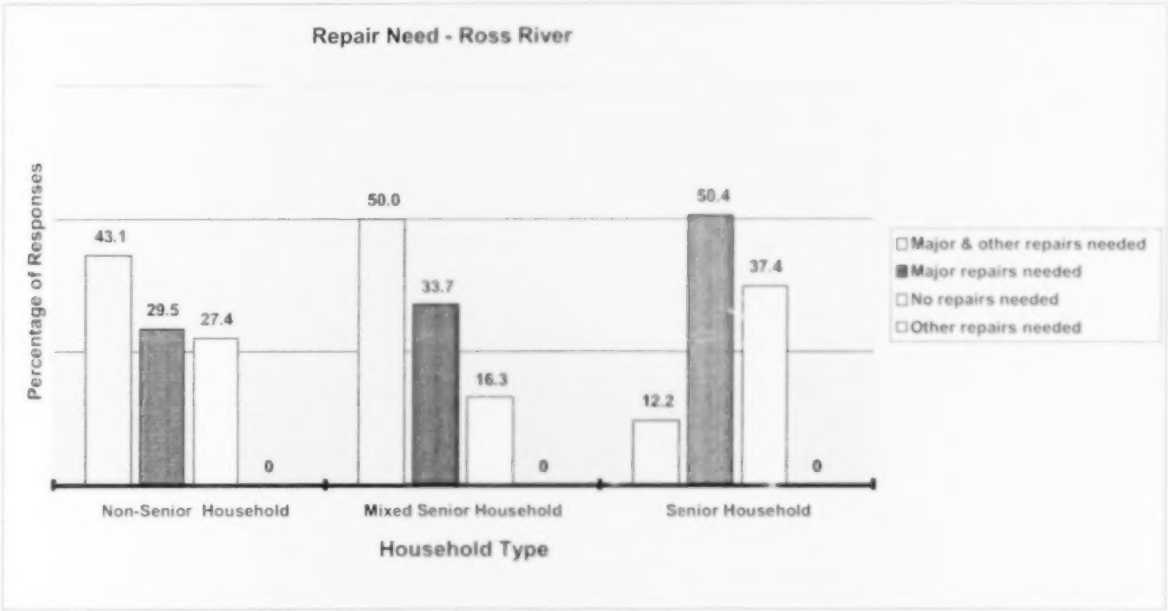


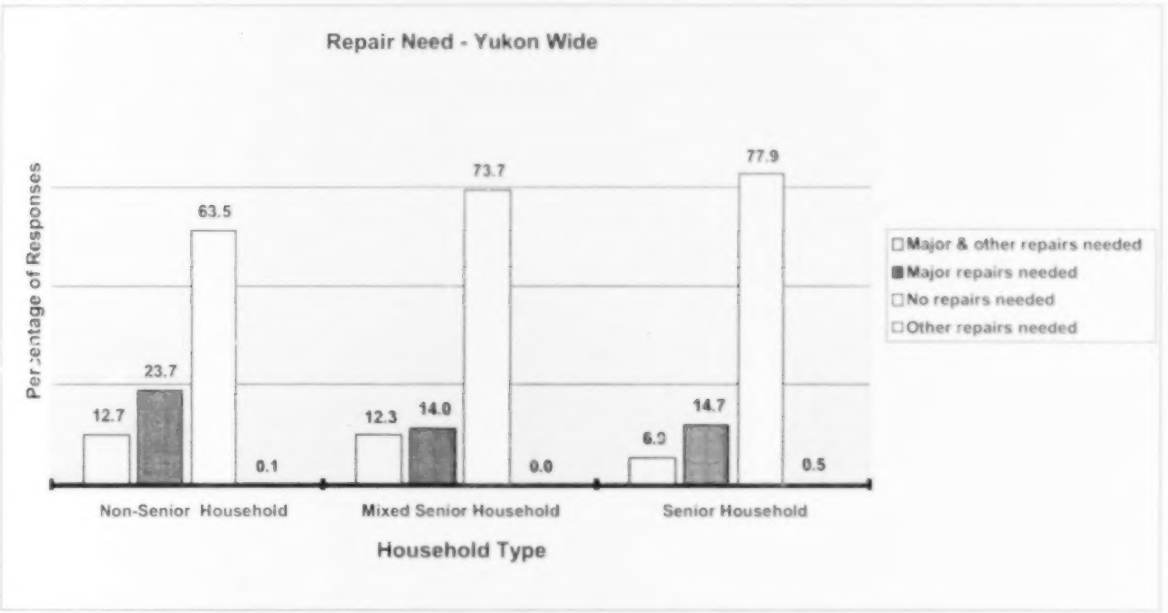
HIGHLIGHTS

- 13.8 percent of all non-senior households in Ross River require some basic facilities.
- 16.3 percent of all mixed senior households in Ross River require some basic facilities.
- These percentages are significantly higher than the corresponding Yukon wide percentages.
- 100 percent of senior households have all basic facilities available. This represents eight households.
- Note, total numbers are quite small.

5.1.2 HOUSEHOLD TYPE VERSUS REPAIR NEED

These bar charts are included to show the kinds of households that are in need of repair.





HIGHLIGHTS

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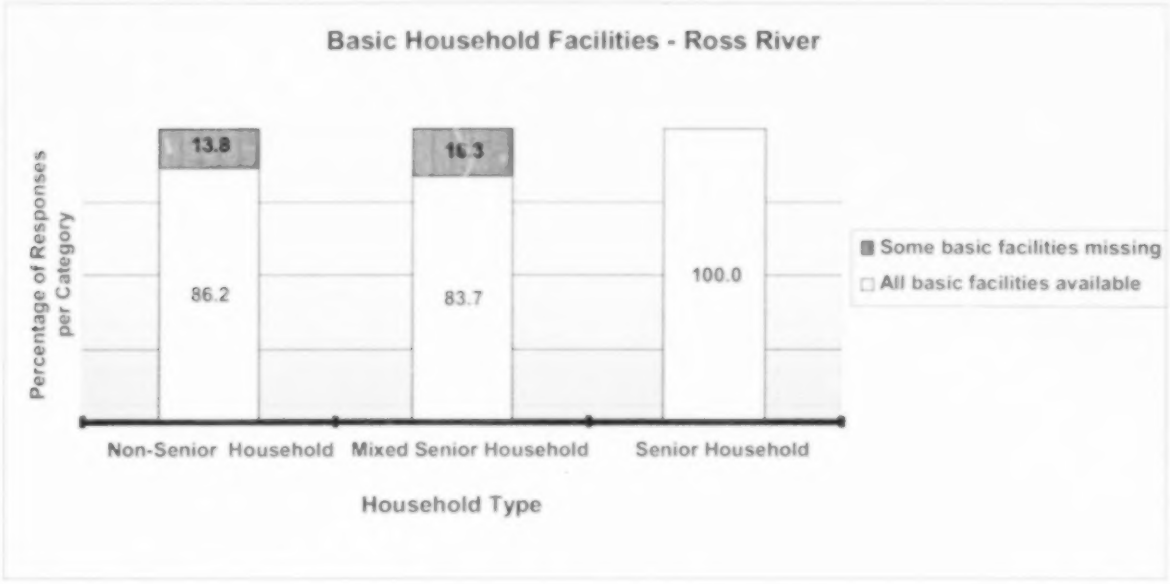
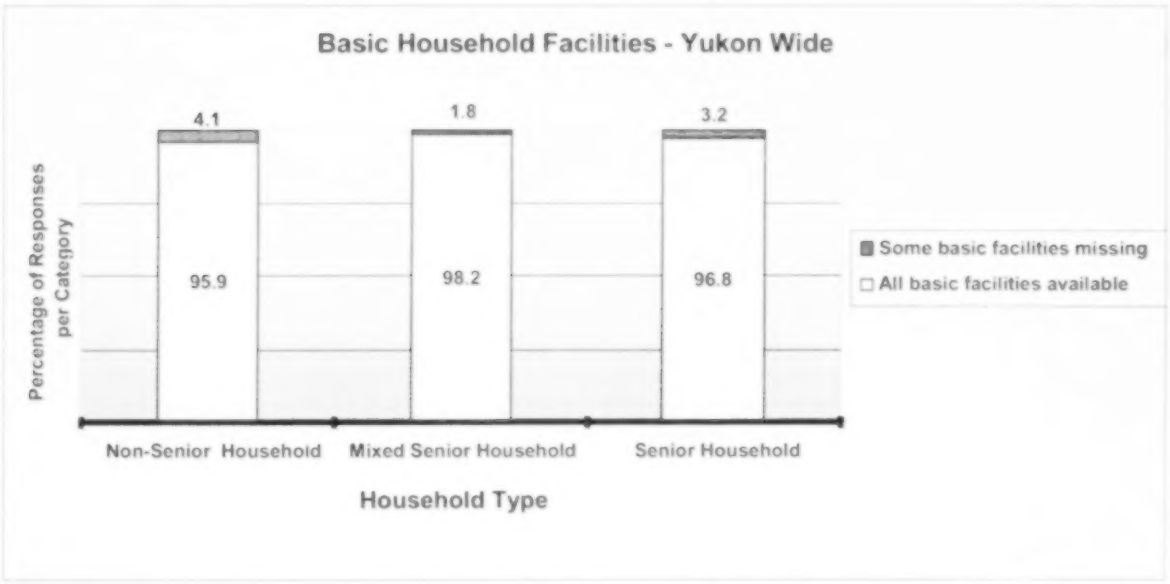
- 12.2 percent of senior households require major and other repairs.
- 50.4 percent of senior households require major repairs.

5.1.3 HOUSEHOLD TYPE VERSUS BASIC HOUSEHOLD FACILITIES

These bar charts compare the type of households with basic facilities.





HIGHLIGHTS

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